

Hafa Adai!

Palacios signs 2 Tinian appropriation bills into laws. **PAGE 2**

Body found is ID'd as local fisherman 'Ernie.' **PAGE 4**

\$1

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PALACIOS ON 3% TAX HIKE ON CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES

'This is the right time to do it'

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

“When would the right time be?” This was



Palacios

when addressing the Senate-amended version of House Bill 23-74 to essentially add a 3% tax on construction activities.

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the question posed by Gov. Arnold I. Palacios

Bankruptcy court denies IPI's proposed bid procedure for sale of its properties

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The NMI bankruptcy court has denied Imperial Pacific

International (CNMI) LLC's proposed bid procedure for the sale of its properties (which includes the hotel/casino). Instead, the court

granted the committee of IPI creditors' request to employ Intrepid Investment Bankers LLC as an investment banker
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BRINGING BACK THE JOY OF THE HOLIDAYS FOR OUR CHILDREN

The First Lady Wella Foundation, in collaboration with the Office of the Governor and Marine Corps Base Camp Blaz, invites you to take part in the annual Toys for Tots campaign. Your donation of a new, unwrapped toy will help brighten the holidays for children in need. Donations can be delivered to the Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs Office or the CNMI Women's Affairs Office, with a deadline of Dec. 13, 2024. The Toys for Tots Drive-Thru Distribution will be held on Friday, Dec. 20, 2024, at the Office of the Governor-Juan A. Sablan Memorial Building, starting at 5pm, while supplies last. Let's make this holiday season unforgettable for our community's children.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI welcomes law nixing pre-employment drug testing for gov't jobs

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
EDITOR

A bill that essentially removes marijuana from all pre-employment drug testing for government employees was signed



Evangelista

into law by Gov. Arnold I. Palacios last week and the local community sees it as a step forward in further destigmatizing cannabis in the CNMI.

Commonwealth Cannabis Commission director Mikiotti Evangelista welcomed the development when he commented, “We’re seeing a cultural shift happening in real time. We’re accepting cannabis
See DRUG on Page 4

Man gets \$10K bail for abusing *man'amko*

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT



The NMI Superior Court placed a \$10,000 bail on a man accused of abusing a
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CHRYSTAL MARINO
Facing charges of assault and battery, disturbing the peace, and abusing a *man'amko*, Daniel Kintaro Santos walks to his bail hearing yesterday morning at the NMI Superior Court in Susupe.

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WORLD

A year after Hamas' fateful attack on southern Israel, the Middle East is embroiled in a war that shows no signs of ending and seems to be getting worse.

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LIFE & STYLE

In a turn of events that only Arthur Fleck would find funny, Joker: Folie à Deux—the follow-up movie to the 2019 origin story about the Batman villain—opened in theaters nationwide this weekend to a muted \$40 million.

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TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

Palacios signs 2 Tinian appropriation bills into laws

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
delatorreferdie@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios has signed two Tinian local bills into laws to appropriate \$94,091 and \$114,000 for the personnel and operations of the , and from revenues collected from poker fees on Tinian, respectively.

Palacios informed last week

» **1 bill seeks to appropriate \$94,091 for TCGCC, 2nd bill proposes to appropriate \$114,000 in poker fees to Tinian Municipal Council, Tinian mayor, TAALD**

Sen. Karl R. King-Nabors (R-Tinian), who chairs the Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation, and House Speak-

er Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) of his signing of House Local Bill No. 23-64, D1 into Tinian Local Law No.

23-16, and House Local Bill No. 23-63, D1 into Tinian Local Law No. 23-17.

The two bills, authored by Rep. Patrick H. San Nicolas (R-Tinian), were unanimously passed by the TAALD last Sept. 13.

House Bill No. 23-64, D1 proposes to appropriate \$80,000 to the TCGCC for personnel and \$14,091 to

the TCGCC for operational expenses. The \$94,091 is a local revenue.

The chairman of the TCGCC and/or his designee is the expenditure authority for the \$94,091.

House Bill No. 23-63, D1 proposes that out of \$114,00 in total revenues collected from Tinian from the poker fees, \$6,000 will be appropriated to Tinian Municipal Council for operations, \$5,000

to TAALD for operations, \$80,000 to the Tinian mayor for personnel and operations, and \$23,000 to the Tinian mayor's discretionary account.

The expenditure authority of the \$6,000 shall be the chairman of the Tinian Municipal Council, while for the \$5,000 shall be the TAALD chairman.

The expenditure authority of the \$80,000 and \$23,000 shall be the Tinian mayor.



San Nicolas

MBN to host delegate forum for small biz owners



CHRYSTAL MARINO

Tom Yum Thai Restaurant & Karaoke Bar in San Antonio is the spot for the Marianas Business Network's delegate forum this Wednesday evening.

By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

The Marianas Business Network is set to host its own town hall forum this Wednesday, Oct. 9, for the five candidates running for the CNMI U.S. delegate seat. The event is set to begin at 6pm at the Tom Yum Thai Restaurant & Karaoke Bar in San Antonio just across the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

The forum will be from 6pm to 9pm and is open to the general public, but with limited seating available, attendees must RSVP to assure a spot.

The five candidates running for delegate are floor leader Rep. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan) of the Democratic Party of the Northern Mariana Islands, Kimberlyn King-Hinds of the CNMI Republican Party, and independent candidates John Oliver Gonzales, James Rayphand, and Liana Hofschneider.

"We're super excited to have all the delegates come here. I think it's very important that the next delegate that we elect to U.S. Congress represents us all, and meaning us all. Especially the heartbeat of the CNMI, which is the small businesses. It's really no longer tourism, it's really about the small businesses that are employing local people,

that's employing students, and employing people coming right straight from school. So, it's very important that they really concentrate on the small businesses," MBN founder PK Phommachanh-Daigo told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

He said the whole forum is going to be about how these candidates plan to support the local economy and small businesses and what their platforms are all about.

"We want to understand what's your stance when it comes to small businesses. How are you going to obtain funding? There's going to be some questions that are going to be asked to each candidate, and it's going to be pertaining to, you know, small businesses, funding, and more," he said.

Phommachanh-Daigo gave special thanks to Tom Yum Thai Restaurant & Karaoke Bar for hosting the event. To reserve a spot, interested individuals can RSVP via the provided link bit.ly/3zEVrWR.

MBN is a consortium of 45-50 small businesses on Saipan dedicated to fostering networking, mutual support, and referral services. As an informal group, it operates without membership fees, ensuring accessibility to all interested parties.

†CALISTRO IGUEL REYES

December 31, 1956 - October 03, 2024

In his new life, he now joins his:

PARENTS: †Manuel Cruz Reyes & †Magdalena Naog Iguel Reyes

PARENTS- IN- LAW : †Jose Cabrera Tudela & †Margarita Sablan Cabrera Tudela

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

WIFE: Bernice Cabrera Tudela Reyes

CHILDREN & Grandchildren :
Carleen R & Benji Saures (Leischeng Bernice, Noah Jude, †Inina Margaret)
Calistro T. Reyes, Jr & Phyllisina L. Reyes
(Magdalen Ann, Toa Ichiro, Malosi Manuel, Va'Aina Eling, Mataina Bernadeen)
†Abraham T. Reyes & Kayla DLG. Reyes (Kaylee Kiyomi, Kaleb Jose)
Lorraine T. Reyes

SIBLINGS:

†Fortunata / †Antonio A. Diaz
† Esteban A. & †Carmen S. Reyes
†Maria E. & †Antonio P. Omar
†Felipe F. & Rosita Reyes
†Roberto F. Reyes
†Santiago Iguel
†Elias Iguel Reyes
Joseph R. & †Thomas DLG Crisostomo
Joseph I. & Evangelina R. Reyes
†Manuel Iguel Reyes

BROTHERS- IN- LAW / SISTERS- IN- LAW:

Francisco C. Tudela / Cynthia A.
Diego C. Tudela / †Victoria Omar
Brian C. Tudela / Qui Zhean
Priscilla C. Tudela / Dong Han
Lilian C. Tudela
Alvin C. Tudela / Rose T.
James C. Tudela / Clarissa C.
Gary C. Tudela

Daily mass of intentions are being celebrated at St. Jude Church at 6:00pm followed by the rosary.

Funeral Services will be held on Saturday, October 12, 2024.
His remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel,
Cabrera Center to Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 7:30am.
Responso Service and Holy Rosary recitation will follow immediately .
Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00am and Interment Services will take place at
Sanctuario Pax Memorial Gardens in Kagman where he will be laid at a peaceful rest.

Please join us in prayers,

Bernice Tudela Reyes, Children and Families

BOE proclaims October Cybersecurity Awareness Month

Board of Education secretary/treasurer Gregory Pat Borja proclaimed October as Cybersecurity Awareness Month, recognizing the vital role of the Public School System in aligning with the global initiative promoting digital safety and security.

The proclamation, signed last Oct. 2, was witnessed by Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho and several public education personnel, with various schools, partner agencies, community members, and other stakeholders joining virtually. It was held at the PSS Office of the Commissioner on Capital Hill on Wednesday last week.

The education chief reaffirmed the district's commitment to provide a safe and secure digital learning environment for public school students, staff, and other stakeholders during the proclamation.

The proclamation officially started the many activities that are scheduled throughout the month of October. Planning and organizing these activities were put together by the school district's Statewide Longitudinal Data System Program, State Infrastructure Technology Office, and the Instructional Technology and Distance Education Program.

In ensuring that the message of digital safety is further understood and reaches every member of the community, these efforts also included translating the official proclamation into the indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian languages in partnership with the CNMI Language Commissioner and the PSS Chamorro Carolinian Language and Heritage Studies Program.

In his remarks, Camacho reiterated PSS' commitment to cybersecurity as both an essential and critical component to student learning, safety and security.

"I am pleased to share that 20 schools have successfully completed cybersecurity training, ensuring that educators, staff, and parents are better equipped to safeguard the digital and physical well-being of our students," said Camacho.

The education chief also took the proclamation as an opportunity to reinforce his support of PSS' ongoing cybersecurity, safe online communications, and digital learning initiatives.

"Professional development remains at the core of what we do, and I am thrilled to report that 664 professional development certificates were awarded during the 2023-2024 school year. These certificates reflect our unwavering dedication to elevating our educators and staff, providing



Public School System officials and staff gather together at the PSS Office of the Commissioner to pledge their commitment to staying safe online to protect the CNMI students' future.

them with the knowledge and tools to meet the challenges of today's educational landscape," added Camacho.

PSS SIT director Jesse Tenorio stressed the critical role of cybersecurity in today's education landscape. "With technology now deeply embedded in our teaching and learning processes, it is more crucial than ever to prioritize cybersecurity."

Ferdinand Ngirmekur, PSS Data Privacy specialist, said: "Cybersecurity Awareness Month gives us a chance to ensure that all members of our PSS community—students, educators, and staff—are informed and equipped to handle online risks and data security incidents."

As part of this month-long initiative, all members of CNMI PSS are encouraged to take proactive measures to protect both personal and institutional data.

Dr. Riya Nathrani, ITDE coach, who has been working on consolidating all the month's events into a calendar, emphasized: "These steps include using strong, unique passwords, enabling multifac-

tor authentication, keeping devices and software up to date, adhering to cybersecurity best practices, and promptly reporting any suspicious activities to the appropriate administrators and the SIT office."

Jeaniffer Cubangbang, SLDS Technical manager; Geralyn Dela Cruz, Data Governance manager, along with P12 SLDS Data Governance members Dr. Riya Nathrani, Gus Loste, Ruth Calvo, and D'Anna Tudela, worked closely to coordinate various activities under the leadership of Ferdinand Ngirmekur.

"We've organized training sessions, best practices, and are launching awareness campaigns aimed at engaging students, teachers, staff, parents, and the broader community," Dela Cruz explained. "Our goal is to enhance the cybersecurity knowledge and skills of everyone within the PSS community, ensuring we all contribute to a safer digital environment."

Tenorio added that he will be broadcasting at least one cybersecurity resource with PSS staff each week throughout October.

Randee-Jo Barcinas-Manglona, PSS Communications & Media Program manager, said this month's activities will be promoted through media outlets and social media to bring greater awareness to the community.

For more information on Cybersecurity Awareness Month events and resources, please visit slds.cnmipss.org/what-we-do/data-security-privacy or contact ferdinand.ngirmekur@cnmipss.org to request training.

The CNMI SLDS Program is a state office that collects and integrates the CNMI's education and workforce data that bridges the gap between information and action so that policymakers, practitioners, and the public can make the best decisions possible.

The SLDS is a joint effort of the U.S. Department of Education, state education agency, and other stakeholders, including educators, researchers, and policymakers. The SLDS website is just one of the many tools that the sys-

tem provides to help education professionals make informed decisions and improve educational outcomes.

To learn more about the Statewide Longitudinal Data System, visit slds.cnmipss.org. (PR)

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP24-CHCC/ CAS-029

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 25, 2024 **TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)**
PROCUREMENT OF PURITAN BENNETT 980 VENTILATORS
AND FISHER & PAYKEL 850 HUMIDIFIERS
(Outright Purchase, Shipping, Delivery, Installation, Training and Commissioning)
for CHC Hospital / Respiratory Care Department)

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE (WWW.CHCC.HEALTH). ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

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Island Training Solutions is seeking part-time/contracted instructors in the above areas.

Applicants should be able to provide certifications, education, and experience in the areas they wish to instruct. Teaching or instructing experience is preferred, but not required. Strong command of the English language (spoken and written) and presenting skills required.

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Instructors are expected to prepare participants to sit for recognized certification exams.

Class participants can range from high school to adult learners. Seeking US citizen, Green Card, etc. holders

Submit resume with on-island references to islandtrainingsolutions@gmail.com - attention to Jim Arenovski

TINIAN CASINO GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION

Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission (TCGCC) hereby gives notice that it will hold its Special Meeting on Wednesday, October 9, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at the TCGCC Conference Room.

AGENDA

- I. PRELIMINARY
 - a. Call to Order
 - b. Roll Call
 - c. Adoption of Agenda
- II. PUBLIC COMMENTS¹
- III. NEW BUSINESS
 - a. Bridge Investment Group's Annual Casino License Fee
- IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION²
- V. ADJOURNMENT

¹ Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to 3 minutes. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.
² Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Commission may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re the Matter of the Petition for the Appointment of General Guardianship for: **NOTICE OF HEARING**

LADA
Minor Child(ren)

By: Maria Athena D. Amaro
Petitioner(s)

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on November 18, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom 217A before Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

Dates this 1st day of October, 2024.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court

/s/ _____
By: Deputy Clerk of Court

Body found is ID'd as local fisherman 'Ernie'

By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Authorities have identified the decomposed body discovered behind a Garapan snack bar last Sunday as that of a local fisherman known by the name "Ernie," the Department of Public Safety confirmed yesterday. The identity was provided by

witnesses who had contact with the man in recent days.

The grim discovery was made on Oct. 6, 2024, when a worker at the RNV Snack Bar arrived at the location and was drawn to a foul odor coming from behind the building. Following the scent, the worker found the body in a makeshift shack just behind the snack bar.

Due to the advanced state of decomposition, DPS is still working to officially confirm the deceased's identity and determine the cause of death. The Criminal Investigation Bureau continues to investigate, and the public is encouraged to come forward with any information that could aid in the case.

Anyone with information is urged to contact the DPS Criminal Investigation Bureau at (670) 664-9042 or call the Crime Stoppers Hotline at (670) 234-7272 to remain anonymous.

DRUG

From page 1

culture as an everyday reality as opposed to a fringe idea as it had been for decades."

He also agreed that little by little the stigma associated with marijuana in the CNMI is slowly fading.

"I feel like the stigma surrounding cannabis is, indeed, lifting, and that should be the trend so long as cannabis continues to be consumed in a safe and responsible manner."

Saipan Select LLC managing partner Clyde Norita also sees the passing of Public Law 23-27 as a positive.

"Customers have expressed concern on testing positive for marijuana. Cannabis is legal in the CNMI yet the fear of testing positive has suppressed users of cannabis. Cannabis is legal across the CNMI as a recreational drug. This new law reinforces the legality of marijuana as a recreational drug in the CNMI," he said.

CannaSaipan Saipan Dispensary & Lounge owner Louis Rodgers, meanwhile, gave a bit of perspective on the new law, essentially saying that it doesn't mean government employees can now use marijuana liberally any time.

"This bill only means that testing positive for THC (Tetrahydrocannabinol) is a cannabinoid found in cannabis will not be a disqualifier when an individual is being selected for

hiring. It does not mean government employees can now smoke weed. It doesn't mean that THC will not be a factor in keeping their jobs if they test positive while employed."

He also doesn't see the law's passage as leading to a boom in sales for cannabis dispensaries like his company.

"It's not going to affect cannabis sales one bit. The loss of a customer that used marijuana and then needed to stop before a drug test for government employment would be the same loss under these new rules because they can't continue use once employed by the government."

Through his interactions with his customers daily, Rodgers said probably less than 1% of the population even is considering working for the government.

"As for the stigma, it's a lot deeper than just government employees or future government employees. It is the government that legalized it, correct? So, I'm not sure how that equates to lessening the broader stigma," he said.

The new law removes marijuana from all pre-employment drug testing for government employees with certain exceptions like any positions that are federally funded, even partially, and includes positions that are safety sensitive like the Department of Public Safety, Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, and Department of Corrections.

THIS

From page 1

The bill was forwarded to the Office of the Governor over a week ago with Palacios expressing that he intends to sign it.

Previously, Senate President Edith DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) raised concerns about whether this is the right time to implement a tax hike explaining that this bill would negatively impact local construction businesses who are also struggling during this trying time.

In response, Palacios said he respectfully disagrees stating that now is the best time to implement a tax increase considering the current federal construction activity in the CNMI.

"I respectfully disagree with the Senate president when she said it's not the right time to [implement this increase]. This is the right time to do that. We're [seeing] major construction activities in the Commonwealth whether it's through infrastructure that is federally funded [through] the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Community Development Block Grant Programs, and even projects funded by the U.S. Department of Defense. We're talking very large investments in infrastructure through DOD, through [federal] infrastructure projects, and even the government's own infrastructure projects that remain ongoing," he said.

Palacios adds that these activities will not last forever.

"We're not going to have these

construction activities forever; this is ongoing now. If you want to capture this, this is the time to do it. Otherwise, that ship is going to leave. So, I respectfully disagree, it is the time, this is when it's happening," he said.

Using the garment industry as a prime example, Palacios said the government had an opportunity to tax the industry but argued for years and then, it became too late.

"For example, when we were dilly dallying on whether to increase the user fees for the garment industry, we argued about it for 10 years and then poof, it went away. The question then became irrelevant. So, to me, most of the projects are federally funded. Guam has got similar projects, and they implemented a tax hike last year because of all the buildup. So when would the right time be?" he said.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, last month, following nearly an hour-long regular session, the House of Representatives passed H.B. 23-74 House Draft 1, Senate Substitute 1; a bill that was introduced by Rep. Ralph N. Yumul (Ind-Saipan) over a year ago to impose an additional 3% tax to the yearly gross revenue that is directly derived from construction activities for a period of three years.

Authored by Yumul last year, H.B. 23-74 originally proposed to impose a 3% tax on construction activities with an expenditure threshold of \$250,000.

The Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee increased this threshold to \$350,000.

"It's just not the right time...[to] impose taxes on the private sector" was the sentiment shared by Senate President Edith DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) during a Senate session prior where House Bill 23-74, which would impose a 3% tax on construction activities, was passed.

Before voting on the bill, DeLeon Guerrero expressed that she believes it is not the right time to impose additional taxes on construction activities.

"It is not the right time to impose tax increases when we know that there are revenue activities being realized in at least one municipality here, Tinian, due to the military buildup. Tax increases will ultimately impact ordinary consumers, the people who are already suffering and can barely afford their family's bare necessities," she said.

DeLeon Guerrero further stated that raising taxes on a depressed economy, especially when businesses have yet to return to pre-pandemic levels, should not be the solution to the government's lack of financial management and economic initiatives to generate fresh revenue to fund its programs.

"It's just not the right time...[to] impose taxes on the private sector, which is the one producing revenues for the Commonwealth," she said.

Lastly, DeLeon Guerrero said hopefully, from all of the revenues that will be generated from construction activities on Tinian, a supplemental budget can be submitted to the Legislature allowing them to address financial shortfalls.

COURT

From page 1

to market IPI's properties in hopes of upping the sale price.

Last week, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona, following an over four-hour long hearing, denied IPI's motion to approve bid procedures for sale of substantially all of the debtor's assets and related relief. In addition, Manglona denied IPI's application to employ Keen-Summit Capital Partners LLC to market IPI's property.

However, Manglona granted the motion filed by the Official Committee of General Unsecured Creditors to employ Intrepid Investment Bankers as investment banker to market IPI's properties finding that it would be in the best interest of the estate.

Last month, in an attempt to identify more potential buyers and possibly up the sale price of IPI's casino/hotel and other properties, IPI creditors filed a motion to hire Intrepid Investment Bankers to market IPI's properties as a holistic business instead of

real estate property.

According to the committee's request, to identify potential buyers overlooked by the debtor's limited marketing process (IPI is currently only marketing its properties as real estate), it is essential for the committee to retain proposed investment banker Intrepid Bankers.

"The investment banker will bring the necessary expertise and industry connections to market the business effectively as a holistic business. Should this approach not succeed, the real estate broker proposed by the debtor can then proceed with a real estate sale. This comprehensive and strategic asset disposition plan will benefit both the estate and creditors. Intrepid has been informed and understands that no sale may be consummated until after all creditors and parties in interest have received notice of the pending sale and have had an opportunity for a hearing before the United States Bankruptcy Court," said the committee's request.

IPI's primary real estate assets include a hotel building currently under construction with a casino, a lease-

hold interest in approximately 19,204 square meters of land leased from the DPL under Lease Agreement No. LA-15-002S, and IPI's ownership interest in Imperial Pacific Properties, LLC, which holds a leasehold interest in eight lots adjacent to the leasehold property.

According to the motion, on Aug. 10, 2024, IPI filed a motion to approve bid procedures for the sale of substantially all of the debtor's assets and related relief to essentially liquidate its assets.

Last Sept. 5, the committee filed an opposition to the Bid Procedures Motion, which states that the committee has identified an investment banker to facilitate a sale of IPI's assets as a holistic business and will file an application before the hearing on the Bid Procedures Motion.

Subsequently, on Sept. 6, 2024, IPI submitted its application to employ Keen-Summit Capital Partners as its real estate brokers.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

BAIL

From page 1

man'amko yesterday at the court in Susupe.

Following his arrest, Daniel Kintaro Santos, 48, appeared before Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho yesterday for his bail hearing. Santos is facing charges of domestic violence, disturbing the peace, assault and battery, and elderly or man'amko abuse.

His preliminary hearing is set for Oct. 16 at 10am and arraignment on Oct. 21 at 9am. Attorney Katie Comstock was assigned to represent Santos and assistant attorney general David Karch will be representing the government. Santos was remanded back into the custody of the Department of Corrections to await his hearing.

Court documents show that on Oct. 3, 2024, Department of Public Safety police officers were dispatched to a reported man'amko abuse in As Matuis. A female caller requested that responding officers check on her sister a 63-year-old female, who is also as the report states "disabled." At about 6:07pm, officers were flagged down by a male individual identified as Daniel K. Santos who was with his wife and another female individual who refused to be identified. The victim who was in a wheelchair, was unable to stand or move around without the help of others. The women in the car were both related to Santos. Santos then stated that he was expecting the police because he received a call from officers asking

for directions to his residence.

Shortly after the arrival of the police, the woman who originally called the cops arrived at the residence. The woman called a family member living in the U.S. mainland and gave the phone to the officer. According to the family member in the states, she called the victim earlier that day to check in on her, and the victim told her that Santos was abusing her and hitting her with objects around the house, such as coconut broom or a towel. The victim also mentioned that Santos would drop her onto the thin foam mattress in her room. The woman confronted Santos and asked if what the victim was saying was true, she told police that he admitted to it saying, "Yes, I do hit her." She then notified the initial caller about the abuse.

Police reports indicate that the victim in a very faint tone almost like a whisper told officers saying, "[He] is very brutal. He would hit me with the coconut broom and towel. Like this one," while pointing to the medium-sized towel that was resting on her shoulder. She gave a demonstration and said, "He hits me like this with the towel very hard. He would push me into the room and would shout at me to stay in there. He would leave me for an hour, come back, and push me out of the room." The victim further stated that the last incident was about a week ago but she couldn't remember what happened,

On the same day Santos was arrested and advised of his Miranda Rights. He was escorted to DOC where he was booked and detained.

Saipan Dynamic Lions Club charts members, installs officers

By **RACQUEL H. FLOYD**
raxfloyd@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Lions Clubs International has chartered Saipan Dynamic Lions Club, the 33rd Lions Club of District 204, last Sept. 28 at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Ballroom.

Forty-three members of the Saipan Dynamic Lions Club were inducted, namely Jacqueline Bonto, Rhodora Broncano, Marivec Callejo, Anita Canadalla, Gemma Caranto, Arnel Josh Coloma, Arwayne Bud Coloma, Rowena Coloma, Shelby Ege, Elena Enriquez, Gemma Eugenio, Gemrene Mae Eugenio, Joechris Fernandez, Elizabeth Formentera, Leilanie Garcia,



RACQUEL FLOYD

Lions Clubs International chartered Saipan Dynamic Lions Club, the 33rd Lions Club of District 204, last Sept. 28 at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Ballroom.



RACQUEL FLOYD

Saipan Dynamic Lions Club president Danilo Robles, in his acceptance speech, expressed his gratitude and commitment.

Ma. Elizabeth Gonzales, Emie Jarina, Maricel Javier, Samuel Justo, Aimee Lerum, Callia Lucenara, Carolina Lucenara, Elmar Magno, Malaya Magno, Christian Molinyawe, Queen Indira Molinyawe, Nazareno Ortiz, Annabelle Padolina, Lizette Pascua, Elizabeth Pinkerton, Nolaída Placino, Heidi Posadas, Danilo Robles, Danielle Nicole Sacramento, Lorena Sagana, Dorothy Santos, Eve Slanga, Ricky Taraya, Annabel Tudela, Meliza Umali, Wilanie Undajare, Ester Yamson, and Jona Yamson.

The members were inducted by the global membership coordinator and past district governor Loisa Cabuhat and current district governor Roy Salvador Adonay installed officers led by president Danilo



RACQUEL FLOYD

The Saipan Beacon Lions Club, mother club of the Saipan Dynamic Lions Club, poses for a photo with District 204 leaders.

Robles, first vice president Rowena Coloma, second vice president Ester Yamson, club secretary Arnel Josh Coloma, assistant secretary Shelby Ege, treasurer Lizette Pascua, assistant treasurer Gemma Caranto, auditor Gemma Eugenio, club membership chair Marivec Teresa Callejo, club service chair Dorothy Santos, marketing communications Malaya Magno, club director 1 Leilanie Garcia, club director 2 Elena Enriquez, lion tail twister Mona Yamson, lion tamer Dhorie Dela Cruz, club LCIF coordinator Annabel Tudela, safety officer Jhun Ortiz, and program coordinator Carolina Lucenara.

Robles, in his acceptance speech, expressed his gratitude and commitment.

"I would like to express my sincere gratitude for Saipan Dynamic Lions Club being officially member of the Lions Clubs International. As president, I formally accept responsibility of the office. I pledged to you the member of my club, my full cooperation as well as my fellow officers," he said.

The event was highlighted by the inspirational speech from the past district governor and global service team coordinator Herbie Perez. In her speech, she encouraged new members to embrace the Lions Clubs International president's theme "Make your mark."



RACQUEL FLOYD

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"I truly believe your genuine knowledge will be the foundation on which you will achieve your goal going forward. I strongly encourage you to embrace our international president theme make your mark and set ambitious goals for your club from this year and beyond. Remember your strength lies in your unity, and by working together, you can achieve extraordinary outcomes," she said.

Perez expressed her belief in the club (Saipan Dynamic Lions Club) as she emphasized that effective commu-

nication and engagement are crucial for success. She also said building strong relationships based on trust and respect are essential.

Furthermore, Perez mentioned that self-reflection, perseverance, and stepping out of comfort zones are vital for success and not allowing past achievements or fear of failure to be a hindrance in the pursuit of dreams.

Meanwhile, Adonay delivered his congratulatory message, emphasizing Lions Clubs International's mission 1.5, which aims to increase members to 1.5 million by the lion year 2026-2027.

According to Adonay, more members will enable the club to provide more service and create a powerful ripple effect, and the club's collective voice will grow louder, inspiring more people to serve.

Adonay mentioned that the District 204 has 37 clubs, region 1 and region 2 combined, and is expecting to reach 1,300 members by Oct. 19, wherein a big celebration will be held in Guam to commemorate this achievement. He still encourages members to invite individuals to join the Lions Club to create new friendships, and ideas, and increase impact.

Moreover, Adonay expressed his gratitude for the support received in achieving the goal of becoming a full-

fledged district.

"You (Saipan Dynamic Lions Club) are my first club that is actually chartered this lion year, and when people saw that, 'hey! They can do it.' Guess what? We would have eight new clubs before the end of this lion year, and by the way, that's a record-breaking accomplishment for all of us," said Adonay.

The Saipan Dynamic Lions Club is a chartered club of Saipan Beacon Lions Club.

The night's program also includes the presentation of gifts from the Saipan Beacon Lions Club and the district governor. A special announcement of a \$500 award, with \$250 each given to the two former LEO members Josh Coloma and Gemrene Eugenio. The amount will be used as a contribution to their (Melvin Jones Fellow) which is \$1,000. The Melvin Jones Fellow is the highest form of recognition and embodies humanitarian ideas consistent with the nature and purpose of lionism. It is presented to those who donate \$1,000 to LCIF.

Saipan Dynamic Lions Club first vice president Rowena Coloma acknowledged Region 2 chair Marcelo Masilungan and Saipan Beacon Lions Club in her closing remarks for their invaluable guidance and support throughout the process of or-



RACQUEL FLOYD

Saipan Dynamic Lions Club first vice president Rowena Coloma acknowledged Region 2 chair Marcelo Masilungan and Saipan Beacon Lions Club in her closing remarks for their invaluable guidance and support throughout the process of organizing the club.

Perez, Cabuhat, and Adonay were joined in attendance by Guam leaders, first vice district governor Ronald Hidalgo, region 1 chair Lota Hidalgo, region 1 zone 5 chair Lourdes Shabazz, and region 1 zone 2 chair Jofel Silvestre.

Second vice district governor Eden Mercado and region 2 zone 3 chair Marie Javier served as the mistresses of ceremony and the event was concluded with a raffle drawing.



RACQUEL FLOYD

District governor Roy Adonay delivered his congratulatory message, emphasizing Lions Clubs International's mission 1.5, which aims to increase members to 1.5 million by the lion year 2026-2027.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

It's too late for Kamala Harris to play tough on immigration

Vice President Kamala Harris ticked off her presidential campaign checklist with a visit to the southern border last week. She talked with members of the Border Patrol and made boilerplate promises of getting tough on immigration.

Sorry, Kamala, you don't get points for promising to close the barn door after the horses have escaped.

Harris, as a presidential candidate at a 2019 primary debate, raised her hand when asked if she supported "decriminalizing" border crossings to make unlawful crossings only a civil offense. She no longer supports that view, she told CNN.

Now, however, "I was attorney general of a border state for two terms. I saw the violence and chaos that transnational criminal organizations cause and the heartbreak and loss from the spread of their illicit drugs," Harris said, adding that going after such gangs would be a priority if she is elected president, NBC News reported of her border speech.

Why isn't going after these gangs a priority of the Biden Administration now?

Harris doesn't have to harken back to her time as California AG for examples of criminal illegal immigrants and their effect on communities. She just needs to expand her campaign stops from rallies and auditoriums to some of the communities damaged by the lax immigration policies of the Biden Administration, of which she is part.

Harris could drop in on New York City's infamous "Market of Sweethearts" in Queens where the New York City Police raided a migrant-run brothel last week, the New York Post reported.

"This brothel was the worst of the worst," Democratic district leader Hiram Monserrate said. The former state lawmaker added that the sex workers are forced into prostitution to pay off debts of up to \$50,000 to human traffickers.

"The migrant crisis has contributed to the crime—the sheer number who came here in a short period of time. Some of them are part of organized crime rings," Monserrate said.

Or Harris could just swing by the office of deputy director of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Patrick J. Lechleitner. He provided some sobering data recently: As of July, there were 662,566 noncitizens with criminal histories on ICE's national docket. More than 100,000 illegal immigrants—convicted criminals and those pending criminal charges—who have been charged with assault are not being detained.

Harris was a fan of "sanctuary" laws, at least back in the day. In 2015, as AG, she sent a letter to U.S. senators opposing the Stop Sanctuary Policies and Protect Americans Act.

See KAMALA on Page 7



Belated, but never too late

Last Friday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was standing in front of that iconic green marble backdrop, lecturing the United Nations General Assembly about the prospects for peace in the forever warring piece of the world where he lives.

He was delivering a stern warning to Iran: "If you strike us, we will strike you. There is no place—there is no place in Iran—that the long arm of Israel cannot reach." Then his unblinking eyes lasered as he added what seemed an odd diversion: "And that's true of the entire Middle East."

Just hours later we knew why. His troops were about to begin a bombing mission that would blow his seemingly newsworthy UN speech right off the world's news screens.

Netanyahu's forces were about to drop U.S.-supplied 2,000-pound bombs on apartment buildings just south of Beirut—and assassinate Hassan Nasrallah, longtime leader of the Iran-financed Hezbollah terrorist group, who was with his top team in their underground headquarters beneath the Lebanese families they have forced into being their human shields.

Nasrallah's Hezbollah had shown its support for Hamas's horrific Oct. 7 invasion of southern Israel, by firing a rocket barrage into northern Israel the next day. Since then, Netanyahu says, Hezbollah has fired 8,000 rockets into Israel, forcing 60,000 civilians to flee from their homes.

So, as he was speaking at the UN Friday, Netanyahu was thinking about how he was just hours away from forever ending Nasrallah's terror. And frankly, as Israel's leader was speaking, I, too was thinking of something else. I was thinking about the words Netanyahu never spoke after Hamas attacked Israel—and how different our world might have been if only he had said them last year or anytime since.

In a Dec. 15 column, I had suggested a bold challenge Netanyahu could have made that could have driven a wedge between Gaza's Hamas leaders and the Gaza Palestinian civilians they are willing to see killed for a grander geopolitical purpose. I envisioned Netanyahu standing in front of that green marbled rostrum and redefining a reality that world leaders refused to see:

"Citizens of the world, we face a unique challenge. ... We must secure the freedom of not just one, but two different sets of hostages Hamas has simultaneously imprisoned in Gaza.

"One hostage set is the 248 people Hamas kidnapped in Israel—including women, children and the elderly.

"The other hostage set numbers perhaps 1 million civilian Gaza Palestinians who Hamas trapped into being their human shields. Hamas' rulers and troops are hiding underground, beneath their apartments. Hamas knows those innocent Palestinians will die first when Israel bombs in retaliation. Hamas doesn't care. But Israel cares. And the world cares.

"We live alongside our Palestinian fellow-citizens of Israel.

By MARTIN SCHRAM

Tribune News Service

Martin Schram, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, is a veteran Washington journalist, author and TV documentary executive.



They are as repulsed as we were by those videos of Hamas invaders killing babies, raping women ... We are asking the United Nations to lead a world effort to free both sets of Hamas hostages. We want to work with ... the world, even as we must pursue our attackers."

Instead, Israel chose to go it alone. As I wrote then and ever since, Israel did exactly what Iran and its proxies wanted. They knew the world would be repulsed when Israel bombed Hamas—and killed the masses of civilians they were hiding beneath. Iran hoped the world would turn against Israel, perhaps forever. And that this would stop Saudi Arabia from normalizing relations with Israel.

World leaders know the Geneva Accords and international courts consider it a war crime to use innocent civilians as human shields. Yet the world allows Iran's Hamas and Hezbollah proxies to do just that in Gaza and Lebanon.

Was there another way? We'll never know. No leaders cared enough to even try to stop this war crime. Their grandchildren will never understand their failure.

But this week, one world leader finally rose to the challenge. Sort of. He spoke directly to a nation's ordinary people who are being ruled by an iron-fisted religious regime. He warned the civilians not to "let a small group of fanatic theocrats crush your hopes and your dreams. You deserve better. Your children deserve better. The entire world deserves better."

That speaker was Bibi Netanyahu. He talked via an internet video (with Persian subtitles) to Iran's people on Tuesday, just hours before Iran bombarded Israel with missiles to retaliate for Nasrallah's assassination.

"I know you don't support the rapists and murderers of Hamas and Hezbollah, but your leaders do," Netanyahu said. "You deserve more. The people of Iran should know—Israel stands with you. May we together know a future of prosperity and peace."

Belatedly, Bibi is finally trying out new words. Maybe a new theme. Perhaps now, in a tall glass house half a world away, the UN's leaders will discover their spines, unite their nations, and begin a true truth-telling era that can finally give peace a chance in the Middle East.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Every animal is someone

I often hear people say that humans are superior to other animals and see them behave as though this were somehow true. But can humans regrow body parts, fly among the clouds or navigate thousands of miles without maps or GPS?

Not only do other animals frequently surpass us in their physical capabilities, they often do so in the ethical arena as well by showing unbiased empathy. October is World Animal Month, a perfect time to remember that every animal is someone who deserves respect and the freedom to live as they choose.

One of my favorite books is Ingrid Newkirk's *Animalkind: Remarkable Discoveries About Animals and Revolutionary New Ways to Show Them Compassion*, which dazzles readers with extraordinary facts about individuals so often underestimated by humans. Tiny desert mice, for example, know how to collect drinking water by placing a stone outside their burrow so they can drink the morning dew on warm summer days, and sheep can recognize at least 60 other sheep and can tell humans apart in photographs.

Other animals can do things humans can only imagine. For instance, axolotls, a type of salamander, are renowned for their extraordinary regenerative abilities. They can regrow limbs and organs—including their lungs, hearts and even brains. Imagine if, after a mishap with a table saw, a carpenter could just regrow a finger or even an entire arm!

Speaking of carpenters, carpenter ants can carry up to 50 times their own weight. That's equivalent to a human carrying an elephant with ease.

Elephants' trunks can stretch up to 20 feet, eliminating the need for a ladder, something humans would need to reach even half that high. These highly social and empathetic animals celebrate calves' births with joyous bellowing and trumpeting and mourn their dead. Asian elephants display remarkable altruism, fearlessly risking their own safety to rescue baby elephants who fall into muddy watering holes and prioritizing the well-being of others in their herd above their own.

Elephants are the largest land mammals on Earth, which has a circumference of 24,901 miles. An albatross can fly twice that distance without touching land. They have the largest wingspan of any bird and conserve energy by gliding for miles without flapping their long, narrow wings.

Far below, Pacific salmon embark on a grand full-circle journey. Born in freshwater streams, they transform into smolts with silvery scales and a craving for saltwater. They migrate to the ocean, where they grow for several years, eventually returning to their birth rivers. Scientists believe they're guided by the Earth's magnetic field and river scents as they swim hundreds of miles, leap rapids and dodge predators. Exhausted, they finally reach their spawning grounds, where the females lay thousands of eggs, which the males compete to fertilize. After spawning, most of them die, their mission finally complete.

Adélie penguins, the smallest species of penguin in Antarctica, also travel long distances and have been known to migrate tens of thousands of miles. The males are natural builders and compete to attract females by trying to construct the largest nest.

By MELISSA RAE SANGER

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals

Melissa Rae Sanger is a licensed veterinary technician and a staff writer for the PETA Foundation.



These mischievous little masons use small rocks from surrounding areas to assemble their abodes, and they also nab rocks from their neighbors' nests if their own isn't up to the standards they set for themselves. Sneaky!

Cockroaches can live on every continent except Antarctica. These little wonder insects have been around for over 300 million years and can survive without air for 40 minutes. While they can go without food for up to a month, these social animals prefer to dine together when it is time to eat. They live in close-knit communities and make joint decisions for the good of the group.

While animals around the world and right in our own backyards are busy with their own lives, we must remember that all they really want is to live according to their own needs and desires. Let's let them, and work to protect them from exploitation and harm, not only this October but always.

MAGA's praise of 'real Americans' has a dark history

We've heard a great deal about so-called "real Americans" in this presidential campaign.

It was a theme of this summer's Republican National Convention, where speakers like Hulk Hogan and UFC CEO Dana White used the phrase to praise Donald Trump and his supporters. And more recently, the former president and his running mate, JD Vance, have focused on those they deem not to be real Americans, including Haitian immigrants in Springfield, Ohio, who they've falsely described as "illegal aliens" (and baselessly accused of eating American pets).

Trump has leaned on this type of rhetoric since he first emerged on the political stage spouting spurious claims that Barack Obama wasn't born in the United States. And after enduring it for years, it's hard for many to muster a sense of shock.

Yet perhaps we should react more strongly, given where this language originated. The Trump campaign didn't invent the idea of a "real American," much less the slander that goes along with it. Instead, credit for that dubious deed goes to a group no normal politician would claim as an intellectual influence: the Ku Klux Klan.

It's a truism that the U.S. is a nation of immigrants, but this was especially the case in the early 20th century. Between 1900 and 1914, close to a million newcomers arrived in places like Ellis Island. This meant that each year, one immigrant arrived for every 100 Americans—a high number relative to historical averages (and much higher than the current annual statistic: roughly one new immigrant arrives for every 200 Americans).

Most of the new arrivals came from places that hadn't sent many migrants in the past: the shtetls of eastern Europe, poor farming villages in Italy and Greece and other areas distant from Great Britain, Scandinavia, and Germany—all sources of earlier waves. Most of the newcomers were Catholics, Jews and other faiths distant from Protestantism.

Their arrival occasioned considerable handwringing among native-born Americans, who feared that these foreigners would overrun the nation's White, Anglo-Saxon population. Teddy Roosevelt, for example, fretted that his fellow WASPs were on

the verge of committing "race suicide." Still, Roosevelt believed, as he noted in a speech in 1917, that if someone was loyal to the United States, "then no matter where he was born, he is just as good an American as anyone else."

Members of the Ku Klux Klan thought otherwise. This secret society, born in the wake of the Civil War, played a central role in destroying Reconstruction and disenfranchising African Americans through lynchings and other terrorist tactics. Although the group receded from public view in the 1880s, it experienced a major revival in the 1920s in response to the record levels of immigration.

This new Klan still dressed in hoods and burned crosses, and it certainly didn't hide its ugly past. A typical appeal to "every real American" had the Klan bragging of its "valiant service in behalf of White supremacy." Still, though old-fashioned racism remained a bedrock belief for Klan members, it was the group's new anti-immigrant stance that fueled its explosive growth in states as far afield as Indiana, California and Oregon.

With Klan 2.0 no longer a Southern thing, it welcomed anyone in the U.S. who qualified as a "real American"—meaning "no foreign connections, either religiously or politically." The Klan's national magazine, the *American Standard*, thus called upon "every patriot, every real American in the nation, to unite with us in our nation-wide campaign to get every white, Gentile, native-born Protestant of the nations to the polls in November..."

The hate group likewise argued for the deportation of Jews, Catholics and others it viewed as irredeemably alien. As the *American Standard* put it, the Klan wanted "all orientalisms, alienisms, un-Americanisms driven forever from our shores, and sent to the place of its origins." Long before Trump declared that migrants were "poisoning the blood of our country," the Klan advocated the deportation of "anti-Christian Jewry from the United States entirely, thus withdrawing the poison from the American body politic."

The Klan anticipated our present moment in other ways as well. Outside of its imagined community of "real Americans,"

By STEPHEN MIHM

Bloomberg Opinion

Stephen Mihm, a professor of history at the University of Georgia, is coauthor of "Crisis Economics: A Crash Course in the Future of Finance."



the group argued that while immigrants might be "residents of America ... mentally they are alien. This is because they think, work, and play in terms of alien tongues, alien customs, and alien standards. Consequently, they are aliens, not Americans, whether they possess citizenship papers or not." It's a sentiment Vance channeled last week when he insisted on describing Haitians in Ohio "illegal aliens," despite their legal right to be there.

The rhetoric of the "real American" has always done more than insult and degrade; it can also become a means of intimidation. In the 1920s, for example, it was wielded to wage economic warfare against immigrants. As the historian Linda Gordon noted in her history of the Klan, the group pressured native-born shopkeepers to place placards that read "Real American" in their windows to facilitate boycotts of businesses owned by immigrants.

Nonetheless, these efforts provoked, as they have in our own time, efforts to reclaim a more expansive definition of the term. Jews, Catholics and others sympathetic to immigrants pushed back, claiming that they, not the Klan, were the "real Americans." As one rabbi declared in a speech attacking the Klan: "We want no terrorism in America. We want law and order. This is the standpoint of the Jews as well as every real American citizen."

So, too, in the year 2024. Anyone who claims the "real American" label as a way of denying legitimacy to those whose families arrived here more recently deserves denunciation. And political defeat in November.

KAMALA

From page 6

"'Sanctuary' policies can end up shielding dangerous criminals, who often victimize those same communities," Lechleitner said in a letter to U.S. Rep. Tony Gonzales of Texas.






If Harris wants to see the result of sanctuary policies and the administration's lax immigration stance, she should head to Nantucket. That's where ICE Boston agents arrested five illegal immigrants earlier this month, including the apprehension of an MS-13 gang member. That arrest came a day after a noncitizen was charged with a sex crime against a Nantucket resident and two days after ICE apprehended three other il-

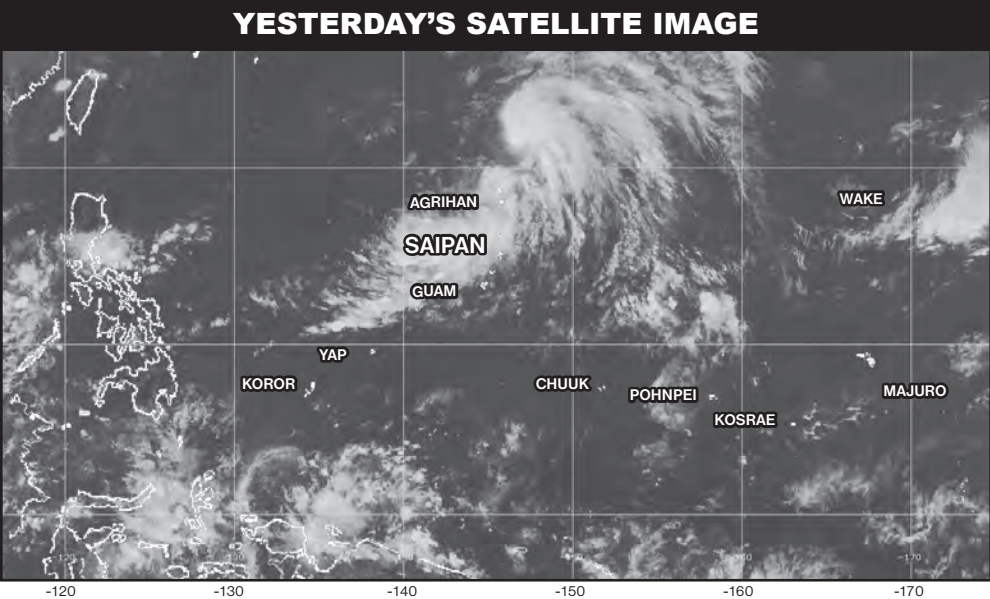
legal immigrants on the island.

These are far from isolated cases. They are the consequences of the Biden Administration's immigration policies. Harris can do her best to flip the script on the campaign trail, but the communities who live with these consequences are far from joyful.

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The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
									
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.		Mostly cloudy with numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southwest to west winds 15 to 20 mph.		Cloudy with showers likely and a slight chance of thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	
86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°



PICTURE TIME: 6:29 AM MONDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

The Marianas is now in the monsoon tail of Tropical Depression 21W. Showers are expected to be high-end scattered through tonight with isolated thunderstorms. Lightning cast has been suggesting multiple cells that could produce lighting, however, very few have produced any lightning, and all that has been produced have been over open ocean. Showers are anticipated through most of the work week with the strongest showers around mid week. Winds are expected to become fresh by mid week before they gradually diminish. Seas are expected to be 5 to 7 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: <https://www.weather.gov/gum/>

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	85° / 77°	
Palau	Sunny	84° / 77°	
Yap	Sunny	85° / 79°	
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	87° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	88° / 78°	
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	88° / 78°	
Majuro	Sunny	86° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:07 AM	6:01 PM
Wednesday	6:07 AM	6:00 PM
Thursday	6:07 AM	5:59 PM
Friday	6:08 AM	5:59 PM
Saturday	6:08 AM	5:58 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	10:22 AM	9:40 PM	-
Wednesday	11:18 AM	10:34 PM	-
Thursday	12:14 PM	11:32 PM	-
Friday	1:08 PM	-	-
Saturday	-	12:32 AM	1:59 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	61° / 55°	
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	72° / 48°	
Hong Kong	Fair	90° / 79°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	87° / 76°	
London	Mostly Sunny	61° / 46°	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	75° / 60°	
Manila	Thunderstorms	88° / 79°	
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	75° / 55°	
Miami	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°	
New York	Clear	71° / 57°	
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	70° / 57°	
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	63° / 46°	
Busan	Cloudy	68° / 63°	
Rome	Cloudy	73° / 59°	
Salem	Mostly Sunny	82° / 62°	
San Francisco	Sunny	67° / 52°	
Seoul	Cloudy	70° / 54°	
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	70° / 55°	
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	77° / 56°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
04:36 AM	Low Tide	-0.02	
11:50 AM	High Tide	1.63	
5:05 PM	Low Tide	1.26	
9:40 PM	High Tide	1.59	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 1, 2024

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	11:50AM	2:25PM	1, 3, 5	UA825	5:30PM	10:00PM	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	UA184	10:25PM	4:15AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:20PM	9:10PM	Daily	PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
				UA184	11:50PM	5:40AM+1	2, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily up to Oct 26	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM +1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily up to Oct 26
				7C2306/3211	11:10PM	3:30PM+1	Daily from Oct 27
				UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM +1	2, 5 via Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	2:30AM	6:25AM	Daily from Oct 28	7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily up to Oct 26
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily up to Oct 27	7C3211	10:10AM	3:30PM	Daily from Oct 27
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily up to Oct 26	TW307	8:00PM	1:30AM+1	Daily up to Oct 27
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily up to Oct 26	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily up to Oct 26
7C3212	4:35PM	8:25PM	Daily from Oct 27	7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily up to Oct 26
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
HX77	3:05AM	6:00AM	1, 5	HX76	6:25PM	1:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday
GUAM TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday
SAIPAN TO TINIAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily
TINIAN TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

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WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROJECT COHORT 4 TRAINING SERIES

BOH, FHB featured in opening session

The CNMI Small Business Development Center Network at the Northern Marianas College, in partnership with the Commonwealth Women's Association, is excited to announce its speakers for its opening session "Credit Ecosystem: Commercial Loan & Business Credit" of the 2024 Women's Entrepreneurship

Project Cohort 4 training series slated to kick off on Oct. 15 and conclude on Oct. 18. The training will be offered at the Northern Marianas College Library at its campus in As Terlaje, Saipan.

The opening session will consist of presentations featuring Bank of Hawaii assistant vice president and assistant

branch manager Joanne Aldan and First Hawaiian Bank vice president and branch manager Vickie Izuka, assistant vice president and Business Banking officer Vicente Agulto, and Senior Merchant Services representative Piarose Aguon.

In the first half of Credit Ecosystem, Bank of Hawaii will be covering the ABCs of

Credit to discuss the following highlights:

■ Understanding the basics of credit

■ Understanding credit reporting, credit scoring and the importance of having good credit history

■ Knowing what to do if credit problems occur

Filling out a loan applica-

tion can be intimidating. For the second half of the session, join First Hawaiian Bank and learn more about the business loan process and how to complete an application to help ease your mind in pursuit of accessing capital to realize your dream of becoming a business owner. Whether wanting to start a business or

expanding your existing one, First Hawaiian Bank will walk you through the life of a loan application, and provide understanding of the underwriting process that goes into business loans. Presenters will feature insights into the bank's merchant services where coverage on credit components important to share with clients will also be provided.

Learn more about what bankers look for in suitable clients that can help drive your confidence in submitting that business loan application today.

The SBDC and CWA are excited to welcome back First Hawaiian Bank as repeat presenters and Bank of Hawaii as a new speaker to this year's Women's Entrepreneurship Project. Banking sessions are undoubtedly one of the program's most anticipated training in the series as the program strives to continuously provide updated banking industry information while refreshing participants' knowledge related to credit and the loan application processes.

"Financial institutions often provide a lifeline for our small businesses when faced with economic challenges. They also play a key role in helping small businesses thrive when they're able to access necessary capital that can help in their expansion efforts. We are extremely grateful for the generous support and outstanding presentations we continue to receive for our clients from our banking resource partners," shares Nadine C. Deleon Guerrero, network director of the CNMI SBDC.

Interested in signing up for this year's cohort? Access the links below for the four-day training series:

■ Oct. 15: Credit Ecosystem – <https://marianas.eccenterdirect.com/events/1019166>

■ Oct. 16: Exploring CNMI SSBCI 2.0 – <https://marianas.eccenterdirect.com/events/1019167>

■ Oct. 17: The Anatomy of the RFP – <https://marianas.eccenterdirect.com/events/1019168>

■ Oct. 18: Consignment Symbiosis – <https://marianas.eccenterdirect.com/events/1019169>

Attendees must be a registered CNMI SBDC client, and interested individuals are able to register via phone or email. Certificates of Completion will be awarded to those who attend all four sessions. Participants who miss one session may still attend, but will not receive a certificate.

For more information, visit www.cnmisbdc.com or contact us at (670) 237-6888/cnmisbdc@marianas.edu. Follow us on social media for the latest updates: Instagram @cnmisbdc and Facebook at CNMI Small Business Development Center Network. (PR)

168th Wing Medical Group delivers medical and dental care to CNMI

By SENIOR MASTER SGT.

JULIE AVEY

168TH WING MEDICAL GROUP

A medical team from the 168th Wing provided healthcare services to the Northern Mariana Islands from June 10 to 28, 2024, embarking on a mission to provide essential medical, dental, optometry, and veterinary care to the residents of Saipan, Rota, and Tinian. This initiative, known as Operation Wellness 2024, was part of the larger Innovative Readiness Training Program, aiming to support the Northern Mariana Islands by delivering medical services to rural populations while enhancing the training and readiness of service members.

Lt. Col. Russell Pierce, 168th Medical Group physician, had the chance to go to Tinian and set up a medical clinic that included dental, ophthalmology, and medical services.

"I connected with the Army, and we set up a clinic and took care of the Tinian people," said Pierce. "A lot of hypertension and diabetes training. We connected with the local clinic for the continued care."

Pierce specializes in nutrition and helps educate outside of being a Guardsman.

He explained some of what was accomplished, "They did not have an ophthalmologist on the island, so we made 80 pairs of glasses. They have a dentist who only visits the island once a month, so a lot of dental care took place. There are a lot of stray dogs on the islands. The veterinarians spayed and neutered cats and dogs for training and to help with the stray population. He said they say the numbers will dwindle if you continue this after three years."

Operation Wellness 2024 not only addressed the healthcare needs of the local communities but also contributed to the professional



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tech Sgt. Charity Sisco, 168th Wing dental assistant, front left, poses for a photo with her Innovative Readiness Training dental team during the IRT on Saipan, June 2024. Operation Wellness 2024, was part of the larger IRT Program, aiming to support the Northern Mariana Islands by delivering medical services to rural populations while enhancing the training and readiness of service members.

development of the participating service members. By offering hands-on training experiences, the mission not only improved the medical skills of the personnel involved but also strengthened their readiness to respond to various scenarios and challenges. The initiative alleviated the burden of accessing healthcare for the Saipan, Rota, and Tinian residents, fostered goodwill, and strengthened the bond between the military and the local population.

"I enjoyed meeting new people and supporting the medical mission in my career field as a medical admin," said Staff Sgt. Yao Cai, 168th Medical Group health services management.

In addition, Cai was also able to provide translation skills as she is fluent in Mandarin. Her translating skills allowed for better communication, which in turn provided beneficial medical care.

Through successfully executing Operation Wellness 2024, the 168th Medical Group provided humanitarian efforts and received readiness training.

"As medics, we did intake of patients, vitals, and took their history before they saw the doctors," said Airman 1st Class Hannah Wolverton, 168th Medical Group. "While the doctors may have seen 50-60 patients, we saw everybody, every single person. High blood pressure was the concern we saw throughout the entire trip. We provided education, how to change your diet and activity levels, and tools and resources."

Wolverton also described her experience with the locals off duty, "When we got off work, it was nice to see everyone. Everyone was so nice and considerate. We were at one of the beaches, and one of the locals had a bunch of mangoes. He would cut them and give



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tech Sgt. Charity Sisco, 168th Wing dental assistant, and Staff Sgt. Emma Rivera-Gustinis, Army 807th Medical dental assistant, pose for a photo while taking a break from providing dental care during the Innovative Readiness Training on Saipan, June 20, 2024. Operation Wellness 2024, was part of the larger IRT Program, aiming to support the Northern Mariana Islands by delivering medical services to rural populations while enhancing the training and readiness of service members.

them to us. Those mangoes were the most delicious ever. I came back and did not want to eat the mangoes."

The hope is that this mission's impact will reverberate far beyond the time spent there, leaving a lasting impression on the communities served.

"My favorite part of being in Saipan was being able to provide medical care and bonding with people," said Airman 1st Class Sierra Long, 168th Medical Group Aerospace Medical Technician. "You could tell on their faces when they walked in that they were so excited to be there and get the care. Many came in not just to get the care but to talk to people about what life is about there and their experiences and just bond with people."

In total, the IRT team saw 5,627 patients and provided 43,895 procedures.

"On average, in dental care, we saw about 70 patients per day for dental care cleanings, extractions, fillings, and dental hygiene," said Tech Sgt. Charity Sisco of the 168th Medical Group. "Amazingly, we transformed a high school into a working clinic."

Cisco said the patients were lining up, and the schedule was packed during the first hour of the day. They had to close the schedule after booking the 10-12 hours they worked.

"Everyone was so grateful," said Sisco. "The community had a dinner for us, and it was really nice."

Approximately 300 service members participated in Operation Wellness 2024, a joint-service Innovative Readiness Training program serving the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands by providing no-cost medical services to rural populations and hands-on training experiences to promote service members' mission readiness.

"It was a great experience to go as a PERSCO team and be a part of the mission as Force Support Squadron," said Staff Sgt. Amberylynn Crisostomo, 168th Force Support Squadron. "It was good because we could work with our medical team and see more of our wing members and meet more people DOD-wide. It was nice to see the success of what everyone did at the end—all the training while there and meeting people." (PR)

World

Mideast violence is spiraling a year since Gaza war began

JERUSALEM (AP)—A year after Hamas' fateful attack on southern Israel, the Middle East is embroiled in a war that shows no signs of ending and seems to be getting worse.

Israel's retaliatory offensive was initially centered on the Gaza Strip. But the focus has shifted in recent weeks to Lebanon, where airstrikes have given way to a fast-expanding ground incursion against Hezbollah militants who have fired rockets into Israel since the Gaza war began.

Next in Israel's crosshairs is archenemy Iran, which supports Hamas, Hezbollah and other anti-Israel militants in the region. After withstanding a massive barrage of missiles from Iran last week, Israel has promised to respond. The escalating conflict risks drawing deeper involvement by the U.S., as well as Iran-backed militants in Syria, Iraq and Yemen.

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP)—A new round of airstrikes hit Beirut suburbs late Sunday as Israel intensified its bombardment of northern Gaza and southern

Lebanon in a widening war with Iran-allied militant groups across the region. Palestinian officials said a strike on a mosque killed at least 19 people.

A year after Hamas' Oct. 7 attack, Israel has opened a new front in Lebanon against Hezbollah, which has traded fire with Israel since the war in Gaza began.

Israel's military confirmed a Hezbollah attack on the northern city of Haifa, though it was not immediately clear whether shrapnel from "fallen projectiles" was from rockets or interceptors. Hezbollah said it tried to hit a nearby naval base. The Magen David Adom ambulance service said it treated 10 people, most of them hurt by shrapnel.

Israel also has vowed to strike Iran after a ballistic missile attack on Israel last week. The widening conflict risks further drawing in the United States, which has provided crucial military and diplomatic support to Israel. Iran-allied militant groups in Syria, Iraq and Yemen have joined in with long-distance strikes on Israel.

Israel is on high alert ahead of memorial events for the Oct. 7 attack, while rallies continue around the world marking the anniversary.

When Hamas launched its attack on Oct. 7, 2023, it called on the Arab world to join it in a concerted campaign against Israel. While the fighting has indeed spread, Hamas and its allies have paid a heavy price.

The group's army has been decimated, its Gaza stronghold has been reduced to a cauldron of death, destruction and misery and the top leaders of Hamas and Hezbollah have been killed in audacious attacks.

Although Israel appears to be gaining the edge militarily, the war has been problematic for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, too.

Dozens of Israeli hostages are languishing in Hamas captivity, and a year after Netanyahu pledged to crush the group in "total victory," remnants of the militant group are still battling in pockets of Gaza. The offensive in Lebanon, initially described as

"limited," grows by the day. A full-on collision with Iran is a possibility.

At home, Netanyahu faces mass protests over his inability to bring home the hostages, and to many, he will be remembered as the man who led Israel into its darkest moment. Relations with the U.S. and other allies are strained. The economy is deteriorating.

Here are five takeaways from a yearlong war that has upended longstanding assumptions and turned conventional wisdom on its head.

A long list of previously unthinkable events have occurred in mind-boggling fashion.

The Oct. 7 attack was the bloodiest in Israel's history. Young partygoers were gunned down. Cowering families were killed in their homes. In all, about 1,200 people died and 250 were taken hostage. Some Israelis were raped or sexually assaulted.

The ensuing war in Gaza has been the longest, deadliest and most destructive in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Gaza health authorities say nearly 42,000 people have

been killed — roughly 2% of the territory's entire population. Although they do not give a breakdown between civilians and combatants, more than half of the dead have been women and children. Numerous top Hamas officials have been killed.

The damage and displacement in Gaza have reached unseen levels. Hospitals, schools and mosques — once thought to be insulated from violence — have repeatedly been targeted by Israel or caught in the crossfire. Scores of journalists and health workers have been killed, many of them while working in the line of duty.

Months of simmering tensions along Israel's northern border recently boiled over into war.

A growing list of Hezbollah officials—including the group's longtime leader—have been killed by Israel. Hundreds of Hezbollah members were killed or maimed in explosions of pagers and walkie-talkies. Israel's ground offensive is its first in Lebanon since a monthlong war in 2006.

Fighting between Israel and Hezbollah has displaced tens of thousands of Israelis and over 1 million Lebanese. Israel promises to keep pounding Hezbollah until its residents can return to homes near the Lebanese border; Hezbollah says it will keep firing rockets into Israel until there is a

cease-fire in Gaza.

When the war erupted, the days appeared to be numbered for both Netanyahu and Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar.

Netanyahu's public standing plummeted as he faced calls to step aside. Sinwar fled into Gaza's labyrinth of tunnels as Israel declared him a "dead man walking."

Yet both men—facing war crimes charges in international courts—remain firmly in charge, and neither appears to be in a rush for a cease-fire.

The end of the war could mean the end of Netanyahu's government, which is dominated by hard-line partners opposed to a cease-fire. That would mean early elections, potentially pushing him into the opposition while he stands trial on corruption charges. Also looming is the prospect of an unflattering official inquiry into his government's failures before and during the Oct. 7 attack.

Fearing that, his coalition has hung together even through mass protests and repeated disagreements with top security officials pushing for a deal to bring home the hostages. After a brief period of post-Oct. 7 national unity, Israel has returned to its divided self—torn between Netanyahu's religious, conservative, nationalist right-wing base and his more secular, middle-class opposition.

Russia strikes Ukraine with drones and missiles

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Russian forces attacked Ukraine overnight with 87 Shahed drones and four different types of missiles, officials said Sunday.

A 49-year-old man was killed in the Kharkiv region after his car was hit by a drone, said regional Gov. Oleh Syniuhov. A gas pipeline was also damaged and a warehouse set alight in the city of Odesa, Ukrainian officials reported.

Ukraine's air force said in a statement that air defenses had destroyed 56 of the 87 drones and two missiles over 14 Ukrainian regions, including the capital, Kyiv.

Another 25 drones disappeared from radar "presumably as a result of anti-aircraft missile defense," it said.

The barrage comes a day after Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that he will present his "victory plan" at the Oct. 12 meeting of the Ramstein group of nations that supplies arms to Ukraine.

Zelenskyy presented his plan to U.S. President Joe Biden in Washington last week. Its contents have not been made public but it is known that the plan includes Ukrainian membership in NATO and the provision of long-range missiles to strike inside Russia.

In a statement Sunday, the Ukrainian leader paid tribute to the country's troops, which he also described as "preparing (for) the next Ramstein."

"They demonstrate what Ukrainians are capable of when they have enough weapons and sufficient range," he said in a statement on social media. "We will keep convincing our partners that our drones alone are not enough. More decisive steps are needed—and the end of this war will be closer."

Meanwhile, Russia's Ministry of Defense said Sunday that it had shot down four Ukrainian drones over the country's Kursk, Voronezh and Belgorod regions.

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Life & Style

'Joker 2' stumbles at box office amid poor reviews from audiences and critics

By LINDSEY BAHR
AP Film Writer

"Joker: Folie à Deux" is the No. 1 movie at the box office, but it might not be destined for a happy ending.

In a turn of events that only Arthur Fleck would find funny, the follow-up to Todd Phillips' 2019 origin story about the Batman villain opened in theaters nationwide this weekend to a muted \$40 million, according to studio estimates Sunday, less than half that of its predecessor. The collapse was swift and has many in the industry wondering: How did the highly anticipated sequel to an Oscar-winning, billion-dollar film with the same creative team go wrong?

Just three weeks ago, tracking services pegged the movie for a \$70 million debut, which would still have been down a fair amount from "Joker's" record-breaking \$96.2 million launch in Oct. 2019. Reviews were mixed out of the Venice Film Festival, where it premiered in competition like the first movie and even got a



This image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows Joaquin Phoenix, foreground center, and Brendan Gleeson, background center, in a scene from "Joker: Folie à Deux."

12-minute standing ovation.

But the homecoming glow was short-lived, and the fragile foundation would crumble in the coming weeks with its Rotten Tomatoes score dropping from 63% at Venice to 33% by its first weekend in

theaters. Perhaps even more surprising were the audience reviews: Ticket buyers polled on opening night gave the film a deadly D CinemaScore. Exit polls from PostTrak weren't any better. It got a meager half star out of five possible.

"That's a double whammy that's very difficult to recover from," said Paul Dergarabedian, the senior media analyst for Comscore. "The biggest issue of all is the reported budget. A \$40 or \$50 million opening for a less expensive movie would

be a solid debut."

"Joker: Folie à Deux" cost at least twice as much as the first film to produce, though reported figures vary at exactly how pricey it was to make. Phillips told Variety that it was less than the reported \$200 million; Others have it pegged at \$190 million. Warner Bros. released the film in 4,102 locations in North America. About 12.5% of its domestic total came from 415 IMAX screens.

Internationally, it's earned \$81.1 million from 25,788 screens, bringing its total global earnings estimate to \$121.1 million. In the next two weeks, "Joker 2" will also open in Japan and China.

Second place went to Universal and DreamWorks Animation's "The Wild Robot," which added \$18.7 million in its second weekend, bringing its domestic total to nearly \$64 million. Globally, it's made over \$100 million. Warner Bros.' "Beetlejuice Beetlejuice" took third place in weekend five, Paramount's

"Transformers One" landed in fourth and Universal and Blumhouse's "Speak No Evil" rounded out the top five.

The other big new release of the weekend, Lionsgate's "White Bird," flopped with just \$1.5 million from just over 1,000 locations, despite an A+ CinemaScore.

Overall, the weekend is up from the same frame last year, but "Joker's" start is an unwelcome twist for theater owners hoping to narrow the box office deficit.

Phillips and star Joaquin Phoenix have said they aspired to make something as "audacious" as the first film. The sequel added Lady Gaga into the fold, as a Joker superfan, and delved further into the mind of Arthur Fleck, imprisoned at Arkham and awaiting trial for the murders he committed in the first. It's also a musical, with elaborately imagined song and dance numbers to old standards. Gaga even released a companion album called "Harlequin," alongside the film.

Jurors in trial of Salman Rushdie's attacker likely won't hear about his motive

MAYVILLE, N.Y. (AP)—Jurors picked for the trial of a man who severely injured author Salman Rushdie in a knife attack likely won't hear about the fatwa that authorities have said motivated him to act, a prosecutor said Friday.

"We're not going there," District Attorney Jason Schmidt said during a conference in preparation for the

Oct. 15 start of Hadi Matar's trial in Chautauqua County Court. Schmidt said raising a motive was unnecessary, given that the attack was witnessed and recorded by a live audience who had gathered to hear Rushdie speak.

Potential jurors will nevertheless face questions meant to root out implicit bias because Matar, of Fairview, New Jer-

sey, is the son of Lebanese immigrants and practices Islam, Judge David Foley said. He said it would be foolish to assume potential jurors had not heard about the fatwa through media coverage of the case.

Matar, 26, is charged with attempted murder for stabbing Rushdie, 77, more than a dozen times, blinding him in one eye, as he took the stage

at a literary conference at the Chautauqua Institution in August 2022.

A separate federal indictment charges him with terrorism, alleging Matar was attempting to carry out a fatwa, a call for Rushdie's death, first issued in 1989.

Defense attorney Nathaniel Barone sought assurances that jurors in the state trial would

be properly vetted, fearing the current global unrest would influence their feelings toward Matar, who he said faced racism growing up.

"We're concerned there may be prejudicial feelings in the community," said Barone, who also has sought a change of venue out of Chautauqua County. The request is pending before an appellate court.

Rushdie spent years in hiding after the Ayatollah Khomeini issued the fatwa over his novel "The Satanic Verses," which some Muslims consider blasphemous. Rushdie slowly began to reemerge into public life in the late 1990s, and he has traveled freely over the past two decades.

The author, who detailed the attack and his recovery in a memoir, is expected to testify early in Matar's trial.

Things don't add up in yearlong romance

DEAR ABBY: A year ago, I met a wonderful man on a cruise. We hit it off fabulously, and since we live 1,000 miles apart, we stay in touch primarily by phone—talking and video chatting. He has come to visit me four times in the past year, and we have taken two trips together. He has met my friends and neighbors and has spoken to my family on the phone (they live in a different state than I do). He says he loves me and that I'm the woman he's looked for his entire life.

The problem is, I have never been invited to visit him. When I asked why, he told me his daughters, who are in their 20s and live at home, as well as his siblings are opposed to him dating and want him to reunite with his ex. (He has been divorced for three years.) That is concerning enough, but I have never spoken to any of his friends on the phone, either.

Something smells fishy. It feels like either I'm nothing more than a "side piece," or perhaps he's ashamed of me and doesn't want me to meet or talk to anyone he knows. Or maybe he's not divorced after all. I don't want to waste precious time on something that isn't going to go anywhere. Are my expectations too great, or am I an idiot for allowing this to go on as long as I have?

FEELING FOOLISH IN FLORIDA

DEAR FEELING FOOLISH: I don't blame you for being concerned. If, after a year of being "courted," you still

haven't been introduced to this wonderful man's friends or family, something doesn't add up. Either the man is spineless, or he hasn't been upfront with you about his circumstances.

If you can't convince him to stand up for himself and make clear to his relatives that he has moved on from his divorce—AND you can control your emotions—pay him a surprise visit. If he has been stringing you along, he deserves to be outed.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I grew up poor. Because of that, I spoiled my daughter rotten. I gave her everything, but it has backfired. When she turned 16, my husband and I bought her a brand-new \$70,000 BMW. I told him I didn't want my daughter to be without anything like I was. She didn't want the \$70,000 BMW; she wanted the \$100,000 one. My husband said it was beyond his budget.

When my daughter received her car, she wasn't happy. She kicked the car and dented it because it wasn't the one she wanted. My husband took it to a body shop and paid to have it fixed. She says that when it gets out of the body shop, she is going to kick it again and then it will be even worse.

I know what you think I should do. But if I take it away and disown her, she will drop out of college, and her life will be ruined. I know that I'm 100% in the wrong. I just need help, and hopefully, you will have an answer that is different than

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



everyone else's. Please help me with another suggestion.

AT MY WITS' END

DEAR AT MY WITS': Gladly! When your ungrateful daughter again damages the car you so generously gave her, DO NOT FIX IT. Instead, let her drive it "as is" and let her experience the consequences of what she has done. If you do, you will be giving her a gift far more valuable than the price of the vehicle. Better late than never.

■■■

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

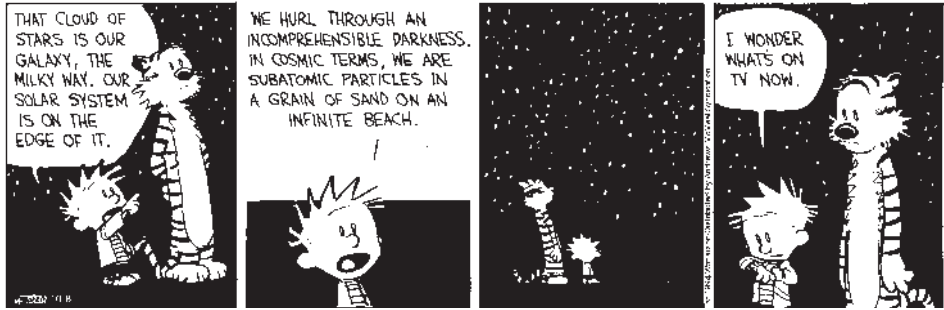
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By Bill Waterson

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By Jim Davis

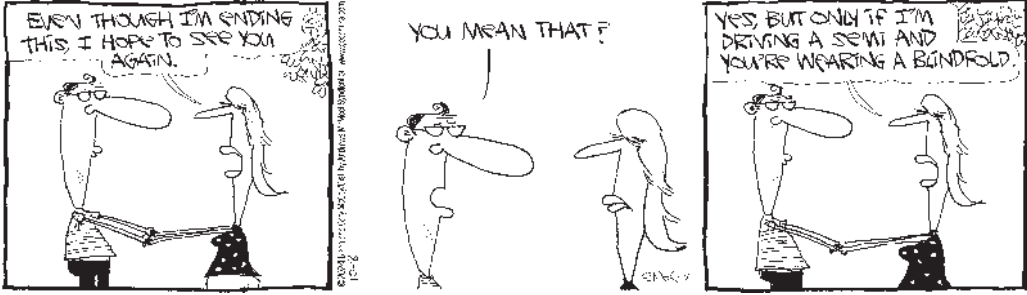


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By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

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5 Merit badge holder

6 Nile queen, familiarly

7 PC key

8 Sneezer's needs

9 Annual form-filing period

10 Fortas and Lincoln

11 Sean Astin film

16 Fish-fowl link

20 Museum purchase

21 First-rate

22 Novelist Waugh

23 Mexican food vendor

24 Corp. VIP

26 Kristen of "Bridesmaids"

27 Chapel vow

28 Cooped (up)

29 Poses

31 Worrisome

34 Genetic letters

35 Bum wrap?

37 "— Pinafore"

38 Openings

39 Kazan of film

40 Dalai —

41 Mosque leader

44 Punk rock offshoot

45 Vegetable peeler brand

46 "Awe-some!"

47 Corp. symbols

Solution time: 22 mins.

Yesterdays answer 10-8

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ksenia Solo, 37; Bruno Mars, 39; Sigourney Weaver, 75; Chevy Chase, 81.

Happy Birthday: A passionate approach can be magical if your words are eloquent, meaningful and uplifting. Approach each day using your skills, gifts, physical strength and courage, and you'll have a positive impact. Follow your plans; there is no room for procrastination this year. It's time to present, promote and turn your dreams into a reality. What you reap, you will sow. Take advantage of the opportunities around you. Your numbers are 4, 10, 18, 21, 26, 37, 42.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Be open, but formulate your strategy to suit your needs. Set your plans in motion and pay attention to detail. Leave nothing to chance; stick to the rules and regulations to avoid setbacks. A change of heart or health will have a positive ending if you act fast. ****

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Live up to your promises, and the returns will be higher than anticipated. Embrace new beginnings and let your mind and body carry you to places encouraging personal growth and opportunity. Don't share too much information, or interference and arguments will develop. Love and romance are favored. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Stretch your mind, use your knowledge and articulate thoughts to reinforce your plans and ensure you finish what you start. Refuse to let outside interference disrupt your intentions or lead you astray. Stay focused on what you want, and you'll attract interest from someone like-minded with something to contribute. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Stick to what you do best, and refrain from participating in heated discussions. Your mission is to complete what you set out to do and to gravitate toward people who have your back, not those

looking to take you down. Personal and physical improvements will boost your morale. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Participate, and you'll discover people and possibilities who can motivate and help you thrive. Use your voice to articulate what you want others to know and understand, and you'll get constructive feedback, support and help. Avoid making physical changes to your environment or appearance. ****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Overreacting and indulgent behavior will stand between you and what you want. Think twice before you participate in a hasty decision or exchange of words. Focus on learning, gathering information and interacting with people who have as much to offer in return. Romance and personal growth are favored. **

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Expand your interests, visit new places and explore what's available. New surroundings will change your perspective and offer a vision of what's possible. A curious, not fearful, approach to change will lead to a path that excites, motivates and attracts interesting people, places and pastimes. ****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Explore the possibilities of turning something you love doing into an additional income. Think outside the box, be innovative and pick up certification to pursue one of your passions. Travel, educational pursuits and talking to an expert will help narrow the gap between dreaming and doing. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Emotions will surface if you let someone bait you into a disruptive discussion or lead you to believe a false narrative. The best opportunities will require dedication and gathering accurate information. Make communication, getting what you want in writing and your health

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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a priority. ****

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You may want to be in charge, but if you are pushy or assume a leadership role prematurely, you will meet with opposition. Take every opportunity to enhance your knowledge, gather facts and find innovative solutions that dazzle anyone skeptical of your intentions or qualifications. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Share your thoughts with people heading down a similar path, and you'll discover shortcuts that save time and money. Refrain from letting persuasive offers stunt your desire to follow your dreams and build your own future. Avoid taking a risk or making a hasty decision. ****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Take time out to nurture yourself. Maintaining your health, fitness and overall well-being will help you avoid temptation and poor choices. Choose minimalism over excess; it will ease stress and make you feel good about your choices and prospects. Turn security and stabilization into your priority. **

Birthday Baby: You are ambitious, persistent and aggressive. You are sophisticated and charming.

☉: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☿: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☼☼☼: Aim high; start new projects. ☼☼☼☼: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

4		8				6	5	
3	6		9	5	4	1		8
			5	6		7		4
					4		2	9
7		9	2		5		3	
8	1				3		6	
	3	4	5				1	6
					3		5	4
			4			3		

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

1	2	3	9	7	8	6	4	5
6	8	7	2	4	5	3	1	9
4	9	5	1	3	6	8	7	2
2	5	8	6	9	7	4	3	1
7	3	1	4	5	2	9	8	6
9	6	4	8	1	3	5	2	7
5	4	2	3	6	1	7	9	8
3	1	6	7	8	9	2	5	4
8	7	9	5	2	4	1	6	3

Difficulty: ★★ 10/8
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WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

WEDDING RING BANDS Solution: 5 letters

S A P P H I R E T T E U G A B
P I R C O U P L E U Q I N U B
A R M E A S U R E G O L D R E
R A O P V @ B R A I D G I O A
K L F N L L @ P A V E L L S U
L U I H G E I @ M R T L A W E T
E P T E N O T S @ I T O S R Y
H O T A R C T I A E V O Y I P
E P I R R U L N M U E N M A R
I E N T D A T A A E H V B T I
R A G L M S K X S I L A O I N
L R A I I S I Z E S D E L L C
O V N W O L L E Y T I A S O E
O I T R A D I T I O N C R S S
M O I S S A N I T E R A U Q S

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Baguette, Beauty, Braid, Brilliant, Budget, Classic, Couple, Fitting, Gems, Gold, Halo, Heart, Heirloom, Karat, Love, Measure, Metal, Minimalist, Moissanite, Oval, Pave, Pear, Popular, Princess, Prong, Radiant, Rose, Sapphire, Silver, Simple, Size, Solitaire, Sparkle, Square, Stone, Symbol, Texture, Timeless, Tradition, Twist, Unique, Vows, Yellow

Yesterday's Answer: Cavalry
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Castellanos wins Game 2 for Phillies with 9th-inning single, top Mets



PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Nick Castellanos

sometimes amazes himself with intuition he can win a game on the final swing.

As he approached the plate with two outs in the ninth inning, with two runners on and the score tied, Castellanos had a hunch he could win Game 2 of the NL Division Series for the Philadelphia Phillies.

Even in the face of an 1-2 slider against Mets reliever Tylor Megill.

"I did like that pitch when I saw it," Castellanos said.

As Phillies fans unleashed a throaty roar that echoed outside Citizens Bank Park, it was clear they liked that pitch, too.

Castellanos ripped a winning single that scored Trea Turner and sent the Phillies to a dizzying 7-6 win over New York on Sunday and evened the NLDS at one game apiece.

"I said to the guys, Rocky would be proud," postseason star Bryce Harper said. "Never-die mentality. Just a great game."

This win meant more than any fictional tale.

Castellanos, who led the major leagues this season with four walk-off hits, tossed his helmet and was mobbed by teammates on the infield as a game that seemed to slip away one inning earlier turned into one more comeback for the NL East champions.

He ran over to his son, Liam, a steady presence at the ballpark during his tenure, and the two exchanged a big "Let's Go!"

"When I'm old and no one cares about me as a baseball player anymore, we're going to be home and be able to remember and look back at that," Castellanos said.

His performance in Game 2 will live long in Philly sports lore. Castellanos had two big swings and misses in the fourth inning for an 0-2 count. He didn't bite on a sweeper in the dirt and mouthed his displeasure when he heard boos from fans.

His tying homer in the sixth made it 3-all, and Castellanos scored the go-ahead run on Bryson Stott's two-run triple in a three-run eighth that put Philadelphia ahead 6-4.

"He came up big for us a lot this year," Stott said. "It feels like every walk-off hit is Nick, and that's who he is. And his heart rate doesn't get up, stays the same. And gets the swing off."

Megill retired the first two batters of the ninth and walked Turner and Harper, who also homered and scored twice. Castellanos followed with the Phillies' fifth career postseason walk-off hit.



Philadelphia Phillies' Bryce Harper, left, and Nick Castellanos celebrate after scoring on a two-run triple hit by Bryson Stott during the eighth inning of Game 2 of a baseball NL Division Series against the New York Mets, Sunday, Oct. 6, 2024, in Philadelphia. AP

"Just made a bad pitch, backed up on me," Megill said.

After falling behind 0-2, Castellanos took a ball in the dirt, then pulled a hanging slider into left and sparked the towel-waving crowd at the ballpark into a frenzy.

"Unbelievable. Unbelievable," Castellanos said. "If he blows a fastball by me, so be it. I'd rather that than swing at something in the dirt. It was incredible but the series is even. Now we go to New York and there's a lot of baseball left."

Game 3 is Tuesday in New York, the Mets' first home game since Sept. 22.

"No excuses. It's been hard, but here we are," Mets manager Carlos Mendoza said. "I'm just looking forward to get back to Citi Field."

In just the second postseason game between the NL East rivals, the Mets and Phillies were pushed from pillar to post over the final four innings, each game-changing swing topped by one even more emotional.

Mark Vientos hit a pair of two-run homers for the Mets, who got solo shots from Pete Alonso and Brandon Nimmo.

"I think we put on quite a show for everybody in attendance and everybody watching on TV," Nimmo said.

Harper's two-run homer and Castellanos' solo drive in a three-pitch span from Luis Severino sparked the Phillies'

comeback from a 3-0, sixth-inning deficit.

"Missed my location and paid for it," Severino said.

After Nimmo's seventh-inning homer off Orion Kerkering gave New York a 4-3 lead, Stott lined a go-ahead, two-run triple down the right-field line on his 27th birthday after Harper walked and Castellanos singled off Diaz in the eighth.

"He threw a slider that I thought I could finally hit, and was able to pull it down the line," Stott said.

Diaz, who has a 9.37 ERA at Citizens Bank Park, threw 104 pitches in three outings over a seven-day span.

Diaz faulted his approach to Harper, saying "I think I was a little bit lazy to him instead of attacking him."

J.T. Realmuto's grounder scored Stott for a 6-4 lead, but Vientos hit a two-run homer off Matt Strahm, an All-Star lefty who failed the Phillies for a second straight game.

Harper — who wore a "Showman" headband — snapped the Phillies out of their offensive malaise when he drove Severino's fastest pitch of the day, a 99 mph fastball, 431 feet into the shrubbery in dead center as fans roared.

"That was sick," Harper said. "Best fanbase in the world."

Phillies fans were still going wild when Castellanos followed with a tying homer

to left-center, then sprinted around the bases.

Now it's off to New York.

"Both teams, man," Harper said. "Punch for punch."

PADRES 10, DODGERS 2

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Fans threw baseballs in the direction of San Diego left fielder Jurickson Profar and then tossed trash that caused a lengthy delay before the Padres beat the Los Angeles Dodgers 10-2 on Sunday night to even their NL Division Series at a game apiece.

Yu Darvish limited the Dodgers' powerful offense to one run and three hits over seven innings and Fernando Tatis Jr. went deep twice as the Padres tied the postseason record of six homers.

David Peralta and Jackson Merrill each hit two-run homers, and a hobbled Xander Bogaerts and Kyle Higashioka had solo shots. At 21, Merrill became the youngest Padres player with a postseason homer.

"Six of them is a special treat for us," Merrill said.

The delay in the middle of the seventh inning led to a 12-minute gap between pitches and occurred as two balls were thrown from the stands in the direction of Profar. He chased after one of them but a security officer got to it first. Trash was strewn on the warning track in

right near the Padres bullpen.

"I feel like when it went over the line, when they started throwing stuff onto the field," Tatis said. "I felt like that should not be happening in a big league game."

There was continuous booing by the sellout crowd of 54,119—the largest at Dodger Stadium this season.

"The bear's been poked for a while. It's been poked previous years, decades," Merrill said. "We just finally got the firepower, we finally got the team to take it to them. They're a good team. I love the way they play. They give us a battle every time. They don't stop."

Security rushed onto the field as Padres manager Mike Shildt and his team huddled in shallow left. They were joined by the umpiring crew. Security appeared to be trying to identify potential perpetrators in the crowd.

"We were looking for a higher security presence out in the left-field corner to ensure that that behavior didn't continue," crew chief Dan Bellino told a pool reporter, "and to make sure that if anybody did throw anything out on the field they would be identified immediately and removed from the stadium."

The Dodgers did not immediately respond when asked whether there had been any arrests.

Manny Machado gathered

his teammates in the dugout to boost them before the game resumed.

The Dodgers have lost four straight Game 2s and seven of their last eight playoff games.

The best-of-five series shifts to San Diego on Tuesday.

Dodgers starter Jack Flaherty hit Tatis with a pitch in the sixth inning, and Profar exchanged words with Dodgers catcher Will Smith.

"There's too much of an important series just to be throwing at guys," Tatis said. "When he hit me, he just gave me more energy. My boys gave me more energy."

The Dodgers thought they'd tied it in the bottom of the first. Mookie Betts hit a deep fly to the corner and left field umpire Adrian Johnson circled his arm signaling a home run.

But Profar battled the outstretched arms of fans, reeling in the ball on the webbing of his glove. He barely reacted to his spectacular grab, hopping away backward as he stared at the astonished fans.

"That was hilarious," Merrill said of Profar trolling the fans. "He's having fun. He was playing like a little kid and I love that."

Later, there were verbal exchanges between fans and Profar.

The Dodgers lost first baseman Freddie Freeman, who left after five innings with discomfort in his sprained right ankle. He struck out and flied out in two at-bats. Freeman got hurt on Sept. 26 and has fought to be healthy enough to make the playoffs.

Just like in Game 1, the Padres took a quick 3-0 lead. Tatis went deep in the first off Flaherty and former Dodger Peralta added a two-out, two-run shot in the second.

Darvish struck out three and walked two against his former team. He shut down fellow Japanese Shohei Ohtani, who struck out and grounded out twice against his friend.

"I was trying to see how he reacted to some of the pitches that I was throwing," Darvish said through an interpreter. "On top of that, I was trying to keep him off-balance by holding a little bit longer. I think it worked pretty well."

Ohtani finished 0 for 4 with another strikeout. Mookie Betts was hitless for a sixth consecutive playoff game.

Pitching not far from where he grew up in Burbank, Flaherty gave up four runs and five hits in 5 1/3 innings, becoming the first Dodgers starter to reach the sixth inning of a postseason game since Max Scherzer in 2021.

Max Muncy homered for the Dodgers in the ninth.

Game-winning field goal from 59 yards lifts Texans over Bills



HOUSTON (AP)—C.J. Stroud threw for 331 yards and a touchdown and Ka'imi

Fairbairn's tiebreaking 59-yard field goal as time expired lifted the Houston Texans to a 23-20 win over the Buffalo Bills on Sunday.

The Texans (4-1) led 20-3 after a field goal early in third quarter before the Bills scored 17 straight points to tie it with about 3½ minutes to go.

Stroud was called for intentional grounding to bring up fourth-and-15 and take the Texans out of field-goal range with less than a minute left.

A punt backed the Bills up to their 3 and they punted after three straight incomplete passes to give Houston one last chance.

Dare Ogunbowale had a 5-yard run to set up Fairbairn's game winner.

RAVENS 41, BENGALS 38, OT

CINCINNATI (AP)—Justin Tucker kicked a 24-yard field goal to lift Baltimore to a wild overtime win over Cincinnati.

After Evan McPherson missed a 53-yard attempt for Cincinnati on a fumbled snap, Baltimore took over on its own 43. On the next play, Derrick Henry rumbled 51 yards down to the Bengals 6 to set up Tucker's chip-shot kick for the win.

Tucker tied it with a 56-yarder with 1:35 left to force overtime.

The Ravens (3-2) and Bengals (1-4) traded punches on offense the entire afternoon with Lamar Jackson finally prevailing despite Joe Burrow throwing a career-high five touchdown passes.

VIKINGS 23, JETS 17

LONDON (AP)—Andrew Van Ginkel returned the first of Aaron Rodgers' three interceptions 63 yards for a touchdown and Minnesota stayed undefeated by holding on for a win over New York at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium.

The Jets trailed 17-0 early, but had a chance to drive for a potential winning score in the final minutes. But Stephon Gilmore intercepted Rodgers' pass intended for Mike Williams and the Vikings improved to 5-0 for the first time since 2016.

Van Ginkel snatched Rodgers' quick slant before breaking a tackle and outrunning the Jets linemen down the sideline for a 63-yard score and a 10-0 lead. The linebacker also had a pick-6 in the season opener against Daniel Jones and the New York Giants.

Rodgers threw a 1-yard



Houston Texans place kicker Ka'imi Fairbairn (15) celebrates with teammate Tommy Townsend after kicking a 59-yard field goal on the last play of an NFL football game against the Buffalo Bills, Sunday, Oct. 6, 2024, in Houston.

touchdown pass to Garrett Wilson to make it 20-17 with just over six minutes remaining before Vikings rookie kicker Will Reichard hit a 41-yard field goal—his third of the game.

A slow start ultimately doomed the Jets (2-3).

COMMANDERS 34, BROWNS 13

LANDOVER, Md. (AP)—Jayden Daniels bounced back from an early interception with the longest touchdown pass of his young NFL career and rushed for 82 yards, and Washington got their best defensive performance of the season to rout Cleveland for their fourth consecutive victory.

Washington is 4-1 for the first time since 2008. Cleveland has lost three in a row to drop to 1-4.

Daniels, Brian Robinson Jr., Austin Ekeler and Jeremy McNichols ran all over the Browns, combining for 211 yards on 31 carries. Robinson ran for two TDs, and McNichols had one in a game so lopsided that fans were doing the wave with four minutes left in the third quarter.

The Commanders defense had a ton to do with that, forcing Deshaun Watson to fumble, sacking him seven times and allowing a total of 212 yards. After Washington entered with the worst third-down defense in the league, Cleveland went 1 of 13 in a sloppy, disjointed effort, with its only touchdown coming in garbage time.

JAGUARS 37, COLTS 34

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP)—Trevor Lawrence threw for 371 yards and two touchdowns on his 25th birthday and put Jacksonville in position for a 49-yard field goal with 17 seconds left that gave the Jaguars their first win of the season over the short-handed Colts.

Tank Bigsby ran for 101 yards and two scores for Jacksonville (1-4), which won for the first time since December and extended its home streak against division rival Indianapolis (2-3) to double digits. The Jaguars did so while wearing throwback uniforms on a day the franchise inducted retired coach Tom Coughlin into its ring of honor.

BEARS 36, PANTHERS 10

CHICAGO (AP)—Caleb Williams threw for 304 yards and two touchdowns in his best performance to date, DJ Moore caught both scoring passes and had 105 yards receiving against his former team as Chicago beats Carolina.

The Bears (3-2) won their second straight after dropping two in a row, with the two key pieces they acquired as a result of a blockbuster trade with Carolina in 2023 leading the way.

Chicago also got a big performance for the second straight week from D'Andre Swift. He had 120 yards from scrimmage and a TD.

Williams picked apart a banged-up defense that ranks among the NFL's worst. The No. 1 overall draft pick completed 20 of 29 passes with no interceptions and a 126.2 rat-

ing that was his best.

DOLPHINS 15, PATRIOTS 10

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)—Alec Ingold scored the go-ahead touchdown on a 3-yard run with four minutes left, and Jason Sanders kicked three field goals to make up for three botched kicks by the Dolphins special teams as Miami beat New England.

In a game between two of the NFL's worst teams that was pocked with penalties, missed kicks and clock management mistakes, each team managed just one touchdown, with Miami (2-3) taking the lead when Ingold plunged into the end zone on his only carry of the game.

The Patriots (1-4) still had two more chances to take the lead after the 2-point attempt failed, but the first ended after a replay review overturned a catch that was ruled a touchdown on the field, and the second fizzled at the Miami 11 when Jacoby Brissett hit Hunter Henry for 25 yards with 4 seconds left—but in the middle of the field, with no opportunity to stop the clock.

BRONCOS 34, RAIDERS 18

DENVER (AP)—Pat Surtain II picked off a pair of passes and his 100-yard interception return for a touchdown powered Denver past injury-riddled Las Vegas, snapping an eight-game losing streak in the storied AFC West series.

Rookie Bo Nix had a breakout day with a pair of touchdown passes after coming into the game with just one. He also ran for a score as Denver

scored 34 unanswered points after falling behind 10-0 in the first quarter.

Completing passes to a franchise-record 11 players, Nix finished 19 of 27 for 206 yards, two TDs and no interceptions as the Broncos (3-2) secured their first win over the Raiders (2-3) since Dec. 29, 2019, a confounding dry spell given how evenly matched the teams have been over the last several seasons.

First-year starter Riley Moss also intercepted Raiders quarterback Gardner Minshew, his first career interception coming one week after his first career fumble recovery and two weeks after the first forced fumble of his two-year career.

CARDINALS 24, 49ERS 23

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP)—Kyler Murray had a long touchdown run in the first quarter and rallied Arizona with two fourth-quarter scoring drives in the Cardinals' victory over San Francisco.

Murray threw a 2-yard touchdown pass to Elijah Higgins early in the fourth quarter that cut the deficit to 23-21 and then set up Chad Ryland's 35-yard field goal with 1:37 to play to give the Cardinals (2-3) the lead.

San Francisco's Brock Purdy then threw his second interception of the game when he was hit by Jalen Thompson, and Kyzir White came up with the floater.

This marked the second time this season that San Francisco (2-3) blew a double-digit lead in the fourth quarter to a division rival, having done it in Week 3 against the Los Angeles Rams. The Niners lost just one division game the past two seasons when winning NFC West titles but are 0-2 already this year after the sixth blown double-digit lead in the fourth quarter in the regular season and playoffs under coach Kyle Shanahan.

Murray threw for 195 yards and a TD and added 82 yards rushing.

PACKERS 24, RAMS 19

INGLEWOOD, Calif. (AP)—Jordan Love bounced back from the first pick-6 of his career to throw a pair of touchdown passes to Tucker Kraft in the second half as Green Bay rallied for a victory over Los Angeles.

The Packers trailed 13-7 late in the second quarter after Jaylen McCollough intercepted Love's off-balance attempt to throw the ball away and ran it in from 4 yards. But Green Bay (3-2) scored on its next three drives and benefited from a pair of turnovers to beat

the Rams (1-4) for the ninth time in their last 10 regular-season meetings.

Love, a California native who grew up in Bakersfield, completed 15 of 26 for 224 yards in his second start since missing two games due to a knee injury.

Josh Jacobs had 19 carries for 73 yards and scored his first TD with the Packers.

GIANTS 29, SEAHAWKS 20

SEATTLE (AP)—Daniel Jones threw for 257 yards and two touchdowns, Bryce Ford-Wheaton returned a blocked field goal attempt 60 yards for a touchdown with 55 seconds left, and short-handed New York stunned Seattle.

Playing without two of its best offensive players, New York (2-3) put together a masterful game plan that built a 23-13 lead midway through the fourth quarter. The Giants then came up with one big special teams play with Seattle on the verge of potentially forcing overtime.

Seattle's Jason Myers lined up for a 47-yard field goal attempt with 1:05 left that could have pulled even at 23-23. New York's Isaiah Simmons cleanly jumped over the gap between the guard and long snapper in the offensive line and swatted the kick, which bounced into the arms of Ford-Wheaton for a clinching score that sent the home fans to the exits.

COWBOYS 20, STEELERS 17

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Dak Prescott threw a 4-yard touchdown pass to Jalen Tolbert with 20 seconds remaining and Dallas slipped past Pittsburgh.

The Cowboys (3-2) won their second straight after Prescott overcame a mistake-filled night to lead a 70-yard drive that ended with Prescott finding a lunging Tolbert just across the goal line on fourth down.


Pittsburgh (3-2) dropped its second consecutive game following a 3-0 start, this one a sluggish performance on a night the opening kickoff was delayed nearly 90 minutes due to severe weather. The game ended at 12:59 a.m.

The sky eventually cleared. The Steelers spent much of the night in a fog, particularly on offense, managing just 222 yards against a defense missing injured stars Micah Parsons and DeMarcus Lawrence.

Prescott, the NFL's highest-paid player, threw for 352 yards and two scores to offset a night he had two interceptions and fumbled in Pittsburgh territory.

Vizion repeats in Destroyers Friendly champs

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

 Vizion Insurance are repeat champions as they cleared a lopsided path to victory over Beto, 108-67, in the finals of the Destroyers Basketball Club Friendly Games 2024 Season 2 at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium last Sunday night.

The game was mismatched from the start, with Vizion growing stronger by the minute. By halftime, they had an overwhelming 51-23 lead. Vizion's Arnold Sangoyo put up 7 straight points then ended the first half with 17, while Christian Bravo and Alex Robles contributed 12 and eight points each respectively.

The margin widened in the second half as sharpshooters Sangoyo, Robles, Mii Tekopua, and Bravo kept the baskets coming.

Hot streaks solidified Vizion's dominance, with Robles scoring 6 straight, followed later by seven unanswered points.



Runner-up Beto poses for a group photo with their trophy during the awards ceremony of the Destroyers Basketball Club Friendly Games 2024 Season 2 at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium last Sunday night.

As the game neared its end, the "friendly" nature of the league became clear. With Vizion already dominating, Beto's team allowed uncontested shots, giving Vizion's bench free opportunities.

This inflated Vizion's lead to 41 points, with Rico Morales sinking 7 markers and Arnold Arboleda adding 3.

In the end, Robles racked up 30 points with Sangoyo right behind

at 27. Tekopua put up 17 markers, while Bravo scored 16.

On the other hand, Jhomer Espinueva and Keith Santos were the only ones in double digits with 22 markers each.

In the third place match before the finals, Underground won after they beat Velleza in a close match-up, 100-97.

The MVP was Robles. He said after the awards ceremony, "I just did



Repeat champions Vizion pose for a group photo during the awards ceremony of the Destroyers Basketball Club Friendly Games 2024 Season 2 at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium last Sunday night.

what I could for our team to win. I distributed the ball but we also talked about having good defense because Beto is a good team. We just did our best as a team and had great teamwork, that's why we're champions."

As for the season, he said, "It was fun and enjoyable. It was a good league. There were a lot of good teams this season so we also improved our game. We had an addition of Bravo so that's also why we won."

Vizion 108 – Robles 30, Sangoyo 27, Tekopua 17, Bravo 16, Pablo 10, Morales 7, Arboleda 3.

Beto 67 – Jhomer Espinueva 22, Santos 22, Guinoo 8, Hermosa 6, J.R. Espinueva 5, Alviz 4.

Scoring by halves: 51-22; 108-67.

SANTOS

From page 16

was just seconds shy once again of running sub-18 minutes with a time of 18:03. He ran 18 minutes flat in the first qualifier last Sept. 7.

Marianas High School's Michael Miller was second with 18:16, while Agape Christian School's Jireh Wang was third place just seconds behind at 18:19.

The girls race was dominated once again by SIS' Addalee Tafinger who came in at 23:19. Second was ACS' Sablina Chen who clocked in at 24:17, while third was ACS' Mary

Zhu at 24:51.

Meanwhile, in team results, the Agape Christian School Torchbearers swept both the boys and girls divisions once again.

The boys had the lowest score—which, like in golf, is the best—at 19. Second was MHS at 27; third was Saipan Southern High School at 59; Mount Carmel School had 72; and SIS was at 73.

In the girls division, ACS was the only complete team out of all high schools and was ranked first with 10 points.

Santos on his sweep said, "I feel happy and grateful for all the races I have won so far. Each win has been a

blessing, but the most important race that really matters is the championship. Everyone will do their best including me. The season isn't over but so far it has been fun and tiring.

His favorite course, he said, was the one at Banzai Cliff during the third qualifier, the Gecko 5000. "I liked the uphill and the environment. It was fun and it was hosted by my school which made it one of my favorite races to run with a lot of my peers there."

Dr. Ron Snyder, SIS headmaster and coach and meet director said of Santos' sweep, "We decided to have Nash do a double workout to get ready for the championship and the

[2024 Asia Pacific Invitational Cross Country Championships] so we only registered him in junior varsity since he needed to go out and run again right afterwards. But even though he was only supposed to run it as a training session, he couldn't let go and pushed for a definitive victory. He continues to impress us all this season."

This race concludes the qualifier rounds of the season. The championship is set for this Saturday, Oct. 12, at the Saipan Country Club (Saipan Vegas) at 6:30am.

Results of the middle school/elementary school divisions will be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.

WETTZ

From page 16

With the game on the line, the Dirty Diamonds lost their one run 16-15 lead at the bottom of the sixth. Wetz pitcher Aamalina Evangelista helped her cause as she and Grace Iriarte scored two to win the ball game, 17-16.

The Dirty Diamonds held a 4-0 lead after the first and added one more in the third, but Wetz retaliated quickly and scored nine runs after three complete innings for a 9-5 game. Then Wetz stagnated as they

would score just six to Dirty Diamonds' 11 runs at the end of top of the sixth. Dirty Diamonds' Britney Gopez started their offensive onslaught with an inside-the-parker.

Then, pitching became the Dirty Diamonds' Achilles Heel as they went through three pitchers after they could not hold on to their one run lead.

The second game saw the Lady Blue Jays soar to victory, 10-3, over 670 Babes.

The Lady Blue Jays' fifth inning spark ignited their winning run after they scored seven straight. Earlier, they scored two in the second from pitcher Bert Camacho and Sonia

Isaac for a 9-1 game. The Babes' Lani Taisacan scored their first run in the second, while their two other runs came a little too late in the last inning.

Then, the Lady Blue Jays' Kiana Camacho scored the 10th run at the top of the last inning, while the Babes fell in order in their last at-bat.

In the opener, Man Amigas bonded with their win against Batties, 4-1.

The Batties opened the game with their only run in the first inning, when Lynnae Cabrera, who reached on a single, was brought home by her teammates. However, they remained scoreless throughout the game after struggling to make contact with

pitches from Man Amigas pitcher Evita Maratita.

The Man Amigas, on the other hand, finally got things going in the third inning with a run by Jasmine Ramon to go up, 1-1. Christy Aldan then took the lead for them after she rounded the bases off an error in the fifth.

Then, the Man Amigas wrapped up their first game of the season with two more runs by Rosie Saralu and Maratita in the sixth for a 4-2 final.

Games are played every Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Softball Field in Susupe from 10am, 12pm, and 2pm.

LEINA

From page 16

Arizona. In NCAA West regional play, she placed third in 2013 and 2015.

The only player in program history to be recognized as an all-American. Kim-Cox was named the 2013 RMAC Freshman of the Year. She was tabbed the RMAC Women's Golfer of the Week 13 times in three years. Following the conclusion of the 2014-2015 season, Kim owned the nation's best scoring average at 73.2.

Another memorable moment for Kim-Cox was playing at the Judson Invitational in June 2014 at Roswell, Ga. "I met LPGA Legends Tour players such as Jane Geddes, Rosie Jones, and Nancy Lopez. It was incredible to meet so many fantastic golfers who inspired me as a young girl."

In the same CSU-Pueblo article, Kim-Cox credits her father (Kwang Young Kim) for getting her started in golf. "My dad has always been my coach throughout my career leading up to college," she stated. "Besides him, my brother (HB Kim) still mentors me.

He is an unbelievable golf coach."

Kim-Cox said, "It's hard to remember things off the course, but I can remember the friendships I've made with my teammates and classmates. Some of us were almost inseparable, and I am forever grateful that they took me in during the times I wasn't able to fly home," when asked about her overall college golf experience.

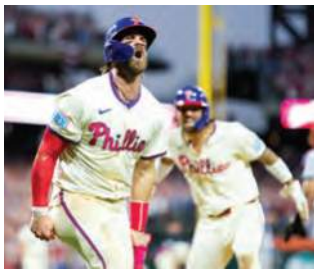
A Business Management major who earned her degree in 2016 after serving a season as a Pack assistant coach, Kim-Cox said she is "grateful for all my teammates. They all took

me in like family when mine couldn't be there due to the distance. One of my favorite memories is when our team would win a tournament, and as we're exiting the parking lot, our windows would be down, and we'd blast Thunderstruck while the other teams would stare at us."

Kim-Cox said she is "still golfing, but it has been a while since I last held a golf club since having a baby. I am also my golf course's club champion for the last two years, and last year, I qualified for the USGA Women's Mid-Am."

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES						
NFL STANDINGS						
AMERICAN CONFERENCE						
East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo	3	2	0	.600	142	106
Miami	2	3	0	.400	60	113
N.Y. Jets	2	3	0	.400	93	85
New England	1	4	0	.200	62	102
South						
Houston	4	1	0	.800	102	114
Indianapolis	2	3	0	.400	119	122
Tennessee	1	3	0	.250	79	90
Jacksonville	1	4	0	.200	97	143
North						
Baltimore	3	2	0	.600	147	126
Pittsburgh	3	2	0	.600	92	73
Cincinnati	1	4	0	.200	140	145
Cleveland	1	4	0	.200	79	121
West						
Kansas City	4	0	0	1.000	92	72
Denver	3	2	0	.600	96	73
L.A. Chargers	2	2	0	.500	68	50
Las Vegas	2	3	0	.400	96	131
NATIONAL CONFERENCE						
East						
Washington	4	1	0	.800	155	115
Dallas	3	2	0	.600	117	121
Philadelphia	2	2	0	.500	86	96
N.Y. Giants	2	3	0	.400	89	104
South						
Atlanta	3	2	0	.600	111	115
Tampa Bay	3	2	0	.600	127	114
New Orleans	2	2	0	.500	127	70
Carolina	1	4	0	.200	83	165
North						
Minnesota	5	0	0	1.000	139	76
Detroit	3	1	0	.750	104	82
Chicago	3	2	0	.600	113	85
Green Bay	3	2	0	.600	128	108
West						
Seattle	3	2	0	.600	122	114
Arizona	2	3	0	.400	120	129
San Francisco	2	3	0	.400	126	106
L.A. Rams	1	4	0	.200	94	139

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



**Castellanos
wins Game
2 for Phillies
with 9th-inning
single, top Mets**

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Saipan Tribune Sports

**Vizion
repeats in
Destroyers
Friendly
champs**

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Santos sweeps x-country season

» ACS sweeps high school

ED DELA CRUZ

File photo shows the fastest runners in the boys high school division Victor Nash Santos, front right, who swept all four qualifiers, Michael Miller, front left, Jireh Wang, back in red, and Takeru Jim, behind Santos, running in the third qualifier of the PSS/NMA All Schools Cross Country 2024-2025 dubbed Gecko 5000 at the Banzai Cliff last Sept. 28.

By LEIGH GASES

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REPORTER

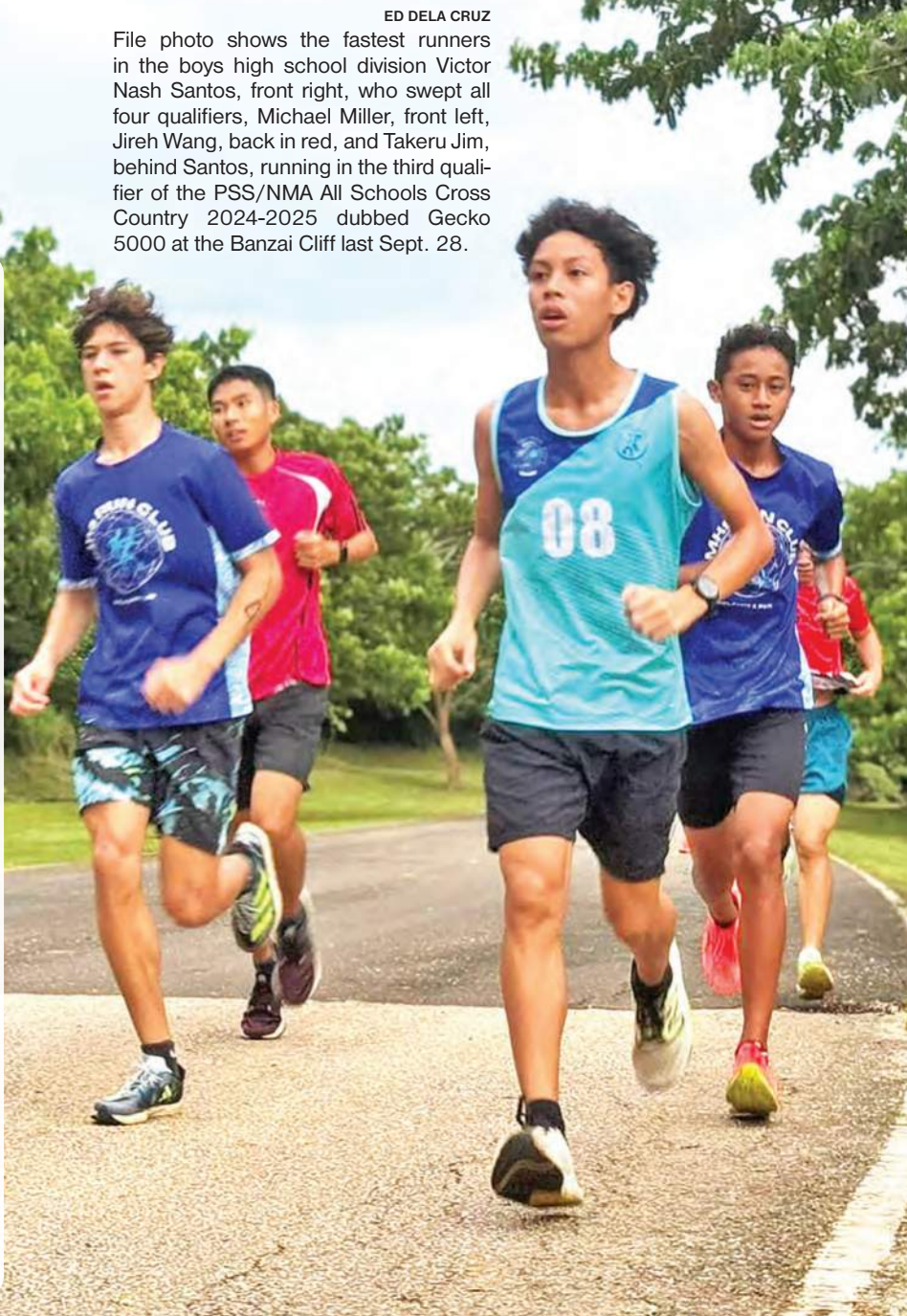
Just as Saipan International School's Victor Nash Santos opened the season with a victory, he closed it with a sweep of the high school boys division as the PSS/NMA All Schools Cross-Country 2024-2025 qualifiers came full circle at the CPA Airport Field on a surprisingly sunny Saturday.



Despite the heavy rain forecasted for the past weekend, last Saturday morning was as hot as could be and the sun blanketed the open field with its hot rays instead.

In the 3-mile course, Santos

See SANTOS on Page 15



Wetz, Lady Blue Jays, Man Amigas debut strong in women's softball



LEIGH GASES

Team Wetz first basewoman C.J. Lizama stretches to catch the ball as a Dirty Diamonds' batter grounds out during their first day of games in the Inaugural NMI Softball Women's League 2024 last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Softball Field in Susupe.

By LEIGH GASES

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Teams Wetz, Lady Blue Jays, and Man Amigas dominated their debut starts in the Inaugural NMI Softball Women's League 2024 last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Softball Field in Susupe.

In the last game of the day,

Wetz slipped past Dirty Diamonds, 17-16.

It was a literal walk in the park for both teams as they scored most of their runs via RBI walks because both teams' pitchers could not locate the strike zone. A total of 24 walks were issued to team Wetz, while 13 were registered to Dirty Diamonds.

See WETZ on Page 15



LEIGH GASES

Team Dirty Diamonds' Neli Araga celebrates at third base after she reaches safely during their game against Wetz in the Inaugural NMI Softball Women's League 2024 last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Softball Field in Susupe.

Leina enshrined at CSU Pueblo Athletics Hall of Fame

By MARK RABAGO

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EDITOR

Leina Kim-Cox was honored by her college after being enshrined at Colorado State University Pueblo's Athletics Hall of Fame last Saturday.

"I'm excited to go back to Pueblo and see my old teammates and coaches and catch up with them. It is an honor to just be recognized by the university. I, of course, plan to thank a lot of people, especially the coaches that gave me a shot to begin with. Honestly, my whole time at

CSU-Pueblo was amazing, it's hard to narrow down a few memorable moments," she told *Saipan Tribune* prior to the induction ceremony.

The now 32-year-old a stay-at-home mom is married to James Cox and the couple has a beautiful 5 ½-month-old baby girl. Both currently live at Fort Liberty, North Carolina.

In an interview published in the CSU-Pueblo website, Kim-Cox said her most memorable time during her college

golf career, "was making it to nationals as an individual. Although I would have loved to go with my teammates, it was still an unforgettable time representing CSU Pueblo. I also

feel honored to have been recognized by RMAC multiple times."

In appearing in the 2013 and 2015 NCAA Division II championships, Kim-Cox placed 28th during her redshirt freshman season and 12th as a junior to become the first CSU Pueblo women's player to earn All-American

honors. She missed qualifying for a third national after signing an incorrect scorecard in 2014 at the NCAA Regional Championships.

As the first women's golfer to be inducted into the CSU Pueblo Athletics Hall of Fame, Kim-Cox placed third, third, and first in three appearances in the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Championships. She topped the league leaderboard in 2015 by shooting a record 135 for two rounds, highlighted by a 66 on the final day in Avondale,

See LEINA on Page 15



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Leina Kim-Cox at the Colorado State University Pueblo's Athletics Hall of Fame enshrinement ceremony last Saturday.